

SEPTEMBER 2, 1995
COLUMN 8
Francis Bacon's estate donates painting to settle estate tax

Cabinet grants licences to 3 newspapers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet on Saturday approved granting licences to three new newspapers. The first, named Al Anbaa (the news), will be published by the Information Investments Company. Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh, former editor in chief of Sawat Al Shaab newspaper which folded earlier this year, will be the chief editor of the newspaper. The second, an economic daily to be named Al A'mal (business), which will cover business and financial issues, will be published by the same company. Shahr Nammoura will be the chief editor of Al A'mal. The third will be a weekly newspaper which will be published in Arabic under the name Al Hirar (dialogue) by Aref Huneidi Company. Abdullah Bani Issa will be the chief editor of the newspaper. The Council of Ministers, meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, also decided to set up a delegation which will represent the Kingdom at the upcoming regular meetings of the United Nations Refugees and Works Agency (UNRWA). The delegation will be headed by director of the Palestinian Affairs Department Ibrahim Al Tashih. The four-day meetings will be held in the beginning of October.

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NATO, U.N. debate more attacks after Serbs set terms for pullback

U.S. peace plan seen building slow but steady momentum

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries and the United Nations debated whether to resume air strikes Saturday after rebel Serbs set conditions for pulling back heavy weapons around Sarajevo.

Those conditions threatened to disrupt diplomatic efforts, as Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic warned he might not send a delegation to a foreign ministers' meeting this week if the Serbs did not comply with international demands. Mr. Silajdzic said heavy weapons withdrawal should not be conditional, and charged the Serbs had taken advantage of the air strike pause to resume shelling Sarajevo on Saturday. He said six people were wounded.

"Air strikes should be the first answer if they don't withdraw," Mr. Silajdzic said at a news conference. Meanwhile momentum towards peace in Bosnia is starting to build, senior intermediaries said, but much hard work remains before a U.S. initiative to end the former Yugoslav republic's four-year ethnic war bears fruit.

"War is continuing in Bosnia, but for the first time there is a countervailing momentum toward peace and we want to accelerate it," U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke told reporters in

Bonn after talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel.

U.S. peace diplomacy in the Balkans scored its first real triumph on Friday when Washington announced that the foreign ministers of Bosnia, Croatia and Yugoslavia would meet in Geneva at the end of next week.

The Yugoslav delegation will speak for the Bosnian Serbs, who have agreed to split Bosnia in roughly equal measures with a Muslim-Croat federation, giving Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic a key role in the talks.

"That (Geneva) meeting will not end the war in Bosnia," Mr. Holbrooke said before briefing members of the major-power contact group on his talks. "It will, however, we hope, increase the momentum away from war and toward peace."

U.N. commander Lieutenant General Bernard Janvier met in Zagreb with Admiral Leighton Smith, the alliance commander of the NATO operation, to discuss Mr. Janvier's talks with the Bosnian Serb commander. High on the agenda was whether to resume air strikes.

But Gen. Janvier and Adm. Smith reached no final decision at their meeting. A NATO council session Saturday was reviewing the Janvier-Mladic meeting to guide NATO military commanders in their calls with



Gen. Ratko Mladic

the United Nations, officials said.

Mr. Holbrooke also was to meet NATO officials in Brussels Saturday.

Friday's pause in the air strike campaign that began Wednesday was intended to give U.N. negotiators time to convince the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their heavy weapons from around Sarajevo.

Gen. Janvier had presented Bosnian Serb commander Ratko Mladic with demands that Serbs open the Sarajevo airport and aid routes into the besieged Bosnian government capital before NATO permanently halts its air campaign. The



Gen. Bernard Janvier

U.N. also sought to eliminate Serb threats to three other U.N. "safe areas" and to stop the fighting throughout Bosnia, a Western diplomat said.

But Gen. Mladic set conditions of his own during 13 hours of talks with Gen. Janvier that broke up at 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) Saturday.

Gen. Mladic said he could only agree to respect the "safe areas" if the Bosnian government ceased all attacks from within them. He also demanded that NATO stop flying over Bosnia.

The air strikes Wednesday and Thursday against Serb communications facilities, ammunition depots and weapons have reduced the

Serbs' military advantage, and Gen. Mladic fears that if he removes his weapons from around Sarajevo, his troops around the city will be attacked by government forces.

But the source said it appeared Gen. Mladic's willingness to respect the "safe areas," despite those conditions could be sufficient to suspend the air operation.

"It does look very much like we're moving toward a suspension of the entire NATO air operation. The assurances given by Mladic, it appears, were deemed enough," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Silajdzic said he supported Mr. Holbrooke's peace initiative, but the international community's objectives are not met. "I don't believe we should continue the peace process. We cannot negotiate at gunpoint."

The United Nations on Saturday delivered a strong protest to the Bosnian government over the shelling of Serb positions west of Sarajevo.

The Serbs "understand the situation has changed dramatically, but they can't accept it yet psychologically," an aide to Gen. Janvier said. U.N. spokesman Chris Vernon said the purpose of the air strikes was to "sap their (Serb) will and resolve."

(Continued on page 7)



TUNISIAN MESSAGE: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday receives Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, who delivered to him a message from President Zein Abideen Ben Ali on bilateral relations and pan-Arab issues (see page 3) (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan urges active role for scientists in development

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday addressed the closing session of the "Science Week," held at the Royal Cultural Centre by urging scientists and researchers from Jordanian universities and other institutions to take active participation in facilitating the economic development of the Kingdom.

"We should serve as messengers calling for and acting towards development and leaders of creative and specialised work benefiting the local community," said the Crown Prince at the final session of the Science Week entitled: "Earth Resources Ways to Put Them to Better Use."

Noting that the Kingdom has expanded in various sectors and activities, especially in the utilisation of land, the Crown Prince said the need was great now for opting for "specialisation" rather than "generalisation" because "specialisation is the basis for creativity, which is most

needed for achieving sustainable development."

"Absence of specialisation tends to weaken the spirit of adventure and creativity and abort all attempts at excellence both at the private and the public sectors alike," the Crown Prince stressed.

Jordan has the equipment and machinery worth hundreds of millions of dinars but these lack full specialised utilisation and so they remain unsuitable for progress, Prince Hassan said, stressing the need for quality rather than quantity and excellence in performance.

The state should encourage specialisation and the scientific and technological sector should link its activities with man's needs," the Crown Prince said.

He said efforts should be made to expand vertically rather than horizontally by all sectors. The private sector should take active participation in socio-economic development through honourable and honest competition, away from monopoly and

selfish attitudes, he said. Referring to the theme of the "Science Week," the Crown Prince called on scientists and researchers to direct their attention to the most ideal utilisation of the soil and natural resources.

"We have to exploit our potentials and apply the results of our research on the ground if we want to maximise our benefits for the sake of our nation," Prince Hassan said.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Samih Darwazah addressed the closing session outlining the recommendations of the week-long deliberations. He said the participants reviewed working papers concerning the utilisation of Earth resources and approved a set of recommendations dealing with soil, water and mineral resources, energy and the environment as well as human resources development.

On the sidelines of the (Continued on page 7)

Court begins review of Egypt press law

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's constitutional court began Saturday to review a controversial new press law that critics say will stifle free speech and freedom of the press. The government requested the review on behalf of the journalists' syndicate after editors, reporters and photographers threatened to strike to protest the law. But at Saturday's opening session, the government challenged the court's authority to rule on the law. In its memo to the court, the government maintained that since no journalist has been detained or convicted under the law, there was nothing to review. The court set its next hearing for Oct. 21. The law, passed by the People's Assembly last May, sharply raised penalties for offences such as publishing false information, inflammatory propaganda or defamation of state institutions. The journalists' syndicate, which is a professional union, and opposition parties have said the provisions are vaguely worded and designed to prevent criticism of the government. A writer convicted under the new law faces a jail term of up to five years and a fine of up to 20,000 Egyptian pounds (\$6,000). Previously, maximum sentences had been three months in jail and a 50 Egyptian pound (\$15) fine. The new law also eliminated a provision that had banned the jailing of journalists while they were under investigation in libel or defamation cases.

Widow named new head of Syrian Communist Party

DAMASCUS (AFP) — The widow of the former head of the Syrian Communist Party, Khaled Begdash, has been elected to take his place, the party said Saturday. Wissal Farha Begdash takes over from her husband, who died in July aged 83 after more than 30 years as a leading figure within Arab communism. Her son Ammar was also appointed a member of the party's new eight-member politburo, the party said in a statement to AFP. It has been severely weakened since a split in 1986.

Peres wants Arafat to consolidate authority

Israeli minister confident of accord

CERNOBBIO, Italy (Agencies) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said on Saturday talks on Palestinian self-rule would resume next week but urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to consolidate his authority to shore up the peace process.

Mr. Peres also told Reuters in an interview at a symposium in this northern Italian town that he was confident Israel and the PLO would reach an agreement in the protracted negotiations due to resume on Monday in the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat.

"I'm confident there will be an agreement, but I can't tell you when," Mr. Peres said at Cernobbio, on Lake Como.

He termed "business-like" the 50 minutes of informal talks held with Mr. Arafat on Friday in which they agreed on a timetable for further self-rule negotiations.

"We mainly tried to set up an itinerary for the talks — where, when and in what order. And we are more or less in agreement," Mr. Peres said.

He said he and Mr. Arafat would probably meet again in the middle of next week "to handle various doubts."

Israel and PLO are struggling to complete the second phase of their 1993 interim peace accord, which in 1994 set up Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Israeli army redeployed from West Bank Palestinian populated areas is more than a year behind schedule.

Asked if an Israeli army pullout from the West Bank city of Hebron, the only Palestinian town in which Jews live, was the main stumbling block, Mr. Peres said: "Yes."

"This will be one of the issues discussed by Arafat and myself. If we (resolve it), then we may go to Washington for a conclusion, but we don't want to publish any

dates yet. We'll see how things are going at the end of next week," he added.

Mr. Peres criticised Mr. Arafat for his speech to a symposium on Friday in which the PLO leader chided Israel for the slow pace of the negotiations, which are intended to lead to signature of a deal in mid-September.

"I think he made a mistake. This was not the time or the place to do that. It is always Israel that is having to make all the concessions," he said.

On Friday, chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmad Qourie said in Eilat that he doubted an agreement would be ready in time for a mid-September signing. Mr. Peres said on Friday he thought the talks on self-rule could be completed by the end of the month.

Mr. Peres said on Saturday the Palestinians were doing more to combat violence but added that "stronger steps would help."

He said he told Mr. Arafat on Friday that the only way to shore up the peace process was for the PLO leader to consolidate his authority over his own people.

"Arafat needs to establish his authority because if there are many armed groups none of us can rely upon the Palestinian management. He is beginning to understand this," Mr. Peres said.

"It is better to have 10 parties and one rifle than 10 rifles and one party."

Mr. Peres revealed on Friday that Italy had been the venue for secret talks between the two delegations last June arranged by Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli.

Mr. Peres, who was leaving Cernobbio later on Saturday for an undisclosed destination, refused to say where the talks took place as negotiators might return there.

Mr. Arafat met Pope John Paul on Saturday at the pontiff's summer residence in Castelgandolfo south of Rome to discuss the future of

Jerusalem, the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and a possible papal visit to the Holy Land.

The Pope also raised the subject of jubilee celebrations for the year 2000 in the holy city of Bethlehem, said a statement issued by the Vatican.

Mr. Arafat said he personally and the Palestinian people recognised the Pope's "support for the Palestinian cause," said the statement.

The Palestinian leader updated the Pope on how peace talks and negotiations with the Israeli government were going.

He stressed it would be "an extremely slow path, marked by numerous difficulties." But he hoped talks would be successful, "given the commitment of the parties to pursue that goal."

The Pope expressed "his great appreciation for the willingness and courage shown by two parties in their search for an adequate solution to the complex problems to be solved."

Mr. Arafat was welcomed by the Pope with all the honours reserved for a head of state on a private visit.

The 30-minute meeting was the fourth the two men have had, but their first since the PLO and Israel signed the interim peace agreement in 1993.

The statement said that Mr. Arafat had told the Pope the peace process was slow and "marked by many difficulties ... but also (gave) reason for well-founded hope."

It said the Pope expressed his appreciation for the courage with which both Israelis and Palestinians were seeking peace, and said he hoped both sides could soon enjoy the fruits of their labour.

Qadhafi's call

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has called on Arab

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli killed at Palestinian checkpoint

GAZA (Agencies) — Palestinian police on Saturday shot and killed an Israeli motorist who sped through Israeli and Palestinian roadblocks at the entrance to self-rule Gaza. Palestinian and Israeli sources said.

Palestinian Brigadier Saeed Al Ajaz said Israeli security authorities told Palestinian police earlier on Saturday they had received a call from an Israeli woman saying her husband was mentally unstable and had decided to go into Gaza.

"His wife called this morning the Israeli side at Erez checkpoint telling them that her husband had threatened to go into Gaza. The Israelis informed the Palestinians," he told Reuters.

"Palestinian police tried to stop him by calling him and shouting and fired in the air but he did not stop and they fired at the car's tyres but he did not stop."

"Then (they shot) one time at the car, then he was injured. At the fourth Palestinian checkpoint inside the self-rule area police shot at him and he died. His body is in Shifa hospital," said Brig. Ajaz, adding that his body would be handed over to the Israelis.

An Israeli army spokesman said the army and the Palestinian police were conducting a joint investigation into the incident.

"A car with a yellow (Israeli number) plate a short time ago burst through an army roadblock at Erez and continued driving south to Gaza. First reports from the Palestinian police say the car also broke Palestinian roadblocks and at one point was fired at and he was wounded and died," the spokesman said.

It was believed to be the first time the Palestinian police had killed an Israeli since they arrived to take over security in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho last year under the peace agreement. Brig. Ajaz said the man

(Continued on page 7)

Saddam orders Uday's property seized -- INC

Barzan's Tikriti's links appear intact

DUBAI (Agencies) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered the seizure of property belonging to his oldest son, Uday, amid growing criticisms against him, the Iraqi opposition in exile said Saturday.

Among the goods seized are a transport company and a food processing factory where employees were told not to turn up for work any more, the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said in a statement.

The INC added that guards had been deployed around the companies' buildings. An independent confirmation of the report was not available.

A committee headed by President Saddam's second son Qusai, has been set up to carry out the confiscation of Uday's property, the statement said.

President Saddam agreed to such measures after "growing criticisms" of members of his Tikriti clan, named after his home town Tikrit, which said "Uday's actions are harming the ruling clan."

Uday, 31, is considered to have boosted his position in Baghdad following the defection on Aug. 8 of his brother-in-law General Hussein Kamel Hassan, former industry minister.

Gen. Hassan, who has been granted asylum in Jordan, said Uday was trying to oust his father "by amassing wealth" and scheming against others. He added that Uday had shot his uncle Watban Ibrahim Hassan, wounding him in the leg on the day of

his defection.

According to the opposition, Uday has a large financial empire and controls illegal oil exports as well as the import of chickens, eggs and meat into Iraq.

Iraq meanwhile called upon China, France and Russia to keep up their conditional support within the U.N. Security Council for a lifting of the five-year-old sanctions.

The official daily Al Jumhuriya said the three countries "must prove they are keeping their pledges to work for an end to the sanctions, as they have officially committed themselves."

"The following weeks will show if these three countries are really independent," it said, referring to U.S. and British pressure within the Security Council to maintain the sanctions.

Next Saturday, the council is scheduled to review the embargo imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But diplomats in New York expect no easing of the sanctions.

Meanwhile the wife of President Saddam's half-brother Barzan Ibrahim Al Tikriti, an outspoken critic of Uday, has left Iraq to rejoin her husband in Geneva, diplomatic and Jordanian sources said on Saturday.

The arrival of Mr. Tikriti's wife, Ahlam, in Amman on Friday indicated that a month of feuding among President Saddam's relatives had not broken Mr. Tikriti's links with Baghdad.

Diplomatic sources said her travel plans were known

before Al Hayat newspaper published an interview with Mr. Tikriti on Thursday in which he said Uday was unfit for office.

She had been in Baghdad since late July and was thought to be heading to Geneva on Saturday, diplomats said.

"Despite all her husband's comments, nothing has changed," said a diplomat. "Saddam is looking after Watban. Letting him (Tikriti) sound off is a bit of a safety valve."

Mr. Tikriti, ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and the man thought to control Iraqi funds hidden outside the country, had dismissed rumours he was about to defect.

He also criticised Gen. Hassan and called for the overthrow of the Baghdad government.

Although Gen. Hassan also disliked Uday, Mr. Tikriti's criticism of the defector was not surprising because of an old feud between their branches of President Saddam's family.

The defectors are relatives of President Saddam's father while Mr. Tikriti, Iraq's former intelligence chief, is related to his mother. "The feud between the two sides of the family has been documented for more than a decade, diplomats said."

However, Mr. Tikriti's attack on President Saddam also followed the shooting of his brother Watban at a party outside of Baghdad. The shooting occurred a day be-

(Continued on page 7)

Home & Middle East News

Egyptian military court to try Brotherhood leaders

CAIRO (R) — About 45 leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood will face trial in Egyptian military courts for membership of the banned fundamentalist organisation and other non-violent offences, judicial sources said on Saturday.

It will be the first mass trial of Brotherhood members since 1965 and the decision to try them confirms the sharp policy towards the organisation, the largest and most influential of Egypt's fundamentalist groups.

Muslim Brothers said it was part of a government attempt to make sure they do not win any seats in parliamentary elections expected to take place in November.

The leaders include Essam Eryan, deputy secretary-general of the Egyptian Medical Association, Ibrahim Zaafarani, the secretary-general of the association's branch in Alexandria, and Mohammad Al Sayed Habib, a prominent academic at the university in the southern city of Assiut.

Many of them have been in detention without charge since January, with the courts repeatedly extending the detention orders at intervals at 45 days.

The judicial sources said the military prosecutor had not yet drafted the charge sheet but government officials have already accused them of holding illegal meetings in secret to prepare for the parliamentary elections.

Members of the Brotherhood cannot stand for elec-

tion in the name of the Brotherhood but in previous elections they have stood under the umbrella of recognised parties, with other Brotherhood members helping to organise their campaigns.

Mr. Eryan and Mr. Habib were both members of parliament between 1987 and 1990 in alliance with the Islamist-dominated Labour Party.

After years turning a blind eye to the activities of the Brotherhood, the government has in the past year tried to equate the organisation with the violent fundamentalists who are trying to overthrow the government by force. Brotherhood members say that they continue to oppose the use of violence.

Mamoun Al Hodeibi, the Brotherhood's official spokesman, told Reuters on Thursday: "The government is taking these measures particularly to ban us from running for elections, they are arresting the popular candidates."

"The only way to stop these candidates running is to issue sentences against them and to put them on trial immediately."

He said about 150 members were now in detention.

From the government's point of view, military trials have the advantage that they are fast and that those convicted cannot appeal against the verdict.

Starting in early 1993, the authorities have used the courts to try hundreds of militants accused mostly of carrying out acts of violence

against policemen or politicians.

Sixty-seven militants have been sentenced to death, the vast majority in military courts, and 47 of them have been executed.

The sources said the trial would probably start by mid-September. The government newspaper Al-Ahram said it would be next week.

Three killed in south

Suspected Muslim militants on Saturday shot dead three civilians, including a Coptic Christian farmer, in Egypt's troubled south.

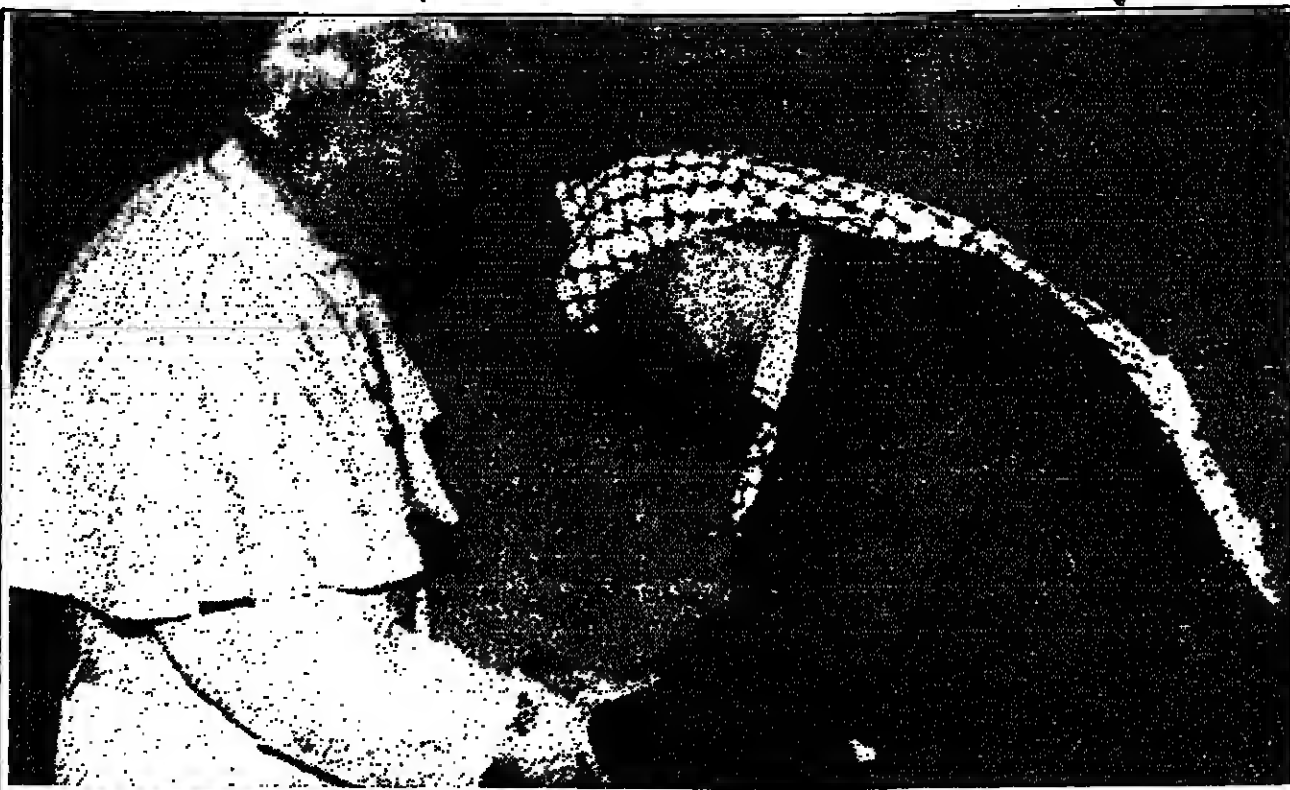
In one attack, gunmen opened fire in the town market of Mallawi, killing Farag Abdul Maqsood, the sheikh of nearby Manshiet Al-Mughanqa village, and a passerby.

Police said Maqsood, 55, was targeted because he cooperated with police against the militants.

In a second incident, attackers shot dead Emad Dumyan Wassef, a Coptic Christian farmer, in front of his home in the village of Al-Mahras near Mallawi.

Mallawi is the capital of the Minya province, long a militant stronghold, which lies 220 kilometres south of Cairo.

In their three-year violent campaign aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government, militants often have targeted members of Egypt's Coptic minority, deeming them infidels. They have also killed civilians they believe work as police informers.



PAPAL AUDIENCE: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat bows as he is welcomed by Pope John Paul II during a private audience at the Pope's residence in Castelgondolfo on Saturday. Mr. Arafat was in Italy to participate in an international symposium on economic and politics and for talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (see page one) (AFP photo)

Beirut asserts toxic waste scandal is over

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese authorities forced a Greenpeace ship to leave Beirut on Friday, preventing the international environmental watchdog from giving information on a toxic waste scandal.

Environment Minister Pierre Pharaon later declared that the scandal over tonnes of Italian waste dumped in Lebanon in 1987 was over. He said none of it remained despite Greenpeace's contention to the contrary.

Greenpeace officials on the anti-nuclear ship Altair said Lebanese security forces cut its mooring ropes after it docked at Beirut port and a gunboat then chased it back to sea.

"It is a shame for Lebanon to deal with an international environmental organisation the way it did," Greenpeace spokesman Fouad Hamdan told Reuters by telephone from the ship.

"This will not stop us from working on the issue of toxic waste in Lebanon. On the contrary it will give us more strength," he added.

After the Altair left, Mr. Pharaon told a news conference that French laboratory tests of samples from 82 sites in Lebanon showed all the Italian waste had been removed.

"The issue of toxic waste is over. There is no more toxic waste in Lebanon," Mr. Pharaon said.

This challenged Greenpeace's charge that some 10,000 of the 16,000 barrels of Italian waste dumped in Lebanon in 1987 was never removed but was buried in the mountains or offshore.

Lebanese environmental experts said after the results of the French tests were announced on Wednesday that the samples for the tests carried out at the govern-

ment's request were improperly taken and the results did not reflect the reality of pollution in Lebanon.

Greenpeace has campaigned energetically on the issue since mid-1994, demanding that the Italian government take back the rest of the waste. Italy says it was all removed in 1988.

Greenpeace campaigner Hamdan, aboard the Altair, said Lebanese security forces told Joel Stewart, its U.S. captain, he could not dock at Beirut because the ship was coming from Israel. Direct travel from Israel to Lebanon is banned by the government.

Security forces cut the ropes when Mr. Stewart refused to leave without written orders from Lebanese authorities, Mr. Hamdan said.

The Altair is touring Mediterranean ports to campaign against nuclear testing by France and China. Mr.

Hamdan was due to brief Beirut journalists on Greenpeace's latest report on the toxic waste scandal.

He said Lebanese authorities were trying to stop Greenpeace's campaign on the scandal which erupted in June 1994 after 30 barrels of waste were found in mountains northeast of Beirut.

A report by Mr. Hamdan on Friday said the waste contained chemicals likely to cause cancer and damage lungs and kidneys.

"An area in the Lebanese Keserwan mountains is today highly contaminated by Italian toxic waste dumped and burned there in 1988," it said.

The report said samples from Shnair quarry near Jounieh were tested at Exeter University in England. "The results showed that the quarry is contaminated by a cocktail of highly toxic waste," it said.

Qadhafi marks his 26 years in power

SIRTE, Libya (AFP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi on Friday celebrated the 26th anniversary of his rise to power before thousands of cheering followers here and called on Muslims in the United States to mobilise for elections there.

"We have to mobilise 10 million American Muslims so that they vote and serve the Arab cause, in the same way that the Jews serve their cause," Colonel Qadhafi said, adding that Libya would "spend the millions" required to organise such a campaign.

The Libyan leader, who seized power in a bloodless coup, criticised Arab governments for spending money without the approval of their people.

He also urged Arab countries to deport Palestinian residents to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to call attention to the failure of an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord establishing limited Palestinian autonomy there.

Col. Qadhafi denounced the agreement as a "criminal plot" and suggested that as PLO leaders now contend the Palestinians "have land and a passport, let the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya return to their country."

"If the Israelis prevent it, the world will see that (the) autonomy agreement is a plot and an act of treason."

In another part of his address, Col. Qadhafi charged that the militant Islam and violence that have destabilised parts of the Arab World are the work of "U.S. and Zionist (Israeli) intelligence services."

Col. Qadhafi praised the

hundreds of officers who participated in the coup d'état that brought him to power Sept. 1, 1969 and referred to those who have gone into retirement.

"There are individuals who without betraying the revolution have stepped off the path," Col. Qadhafi said in an outdoor speech.

Libya has been cut off from much of the world by U.N. sanctions imposed in 1992 for Col. Qadhafi's alleged support of terrorism.

Sudan's leader, Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, was the only head of state to attend the ceremony, along with emissaries from Egypt, Nigeria, Gambia, Chad, Yemen and Malaysia.

On his arrival, General Bashir expressed his country's solidarity with Libya, "against the tyranny, injustice and power of world imperialism."

Col. Qadhafi was decorated by fellow veterans of the 1969 revolution, African youth and the Arab Historians Union, which is based in Baghdad and bestowed on the Libyan leader an honorary doctorate.

Several demonstrations have taken place in Libya over the last week, including "popular Arab forces opposed to peace with Israel."

The former presidents of Algeria and Portugal were awarded the Muammar Qadhafi prize for human rights on the eve of celebrations.

Algeria's former President Ahmed Ben Bella and Portugal's Costa Gomes shared the \$250,000 prize named after the Libyan leader.

Militias battle in Mogadishu; 14 killed

MOGADISHU (R) — At least 14 people were killed and up to 74 seriously wounded in fierce battles on Friday between forces loyal to Somalia's two most powerful warlords, hospital officials said on Saturday.

The fighting pitted militia-men loyal to north Mogadishu faction leader Ali Mahdi Muhammad against those of his south Mogadishu rival Mohammed Farab Aidid.

Witnesses said the militia-men exchanged heavy fire with anti-tank cannon and automatic weapons in Mogadishu's Berbera district but the fighting had stopped on Saturday despite the absence of a peace plan.

Twenty-two people were killed and 130 wounded in four days of fighting in Berbera and the "green line" battle zone dividing the city until shooting stopped on Tuesday.

Tension has mounted since General Aided supporters elected him president of Somalia in June. His main rivals denounced the move and urged the world not to recognise his government.

Somalia has had no international recognised central authority since the overthrow of late president Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991. U.N. peacekeepers withdrew in March after failing to restore order.

The two groups fought earlier this month when gunmen loyal to Gen. Aided erected roadblocks and confiscated firearms from civilians in a disarmament campaign announced by his government.

Somalis deported from Yemen face starvation

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Some 400 Somalis, mostly women and children recently expelled from Yemen, are starving at coastal town of Bosaso, in the self-declared Somaliland republic, the Somaliland weekly Kaaha Bar reported on Friday.

The paper quoted its editor Khalif Mohammad Barre as warning that the refugees would soon die from hunger and malnourishment if emergency humanitarian food supplies, medicine, water and shelter did not reach them on time.

The refugees were forcefully deported from Yemen without even their belongings after being detained in prisons at the southern Yemeni port of Aden for eight days, where they were allegedly tortured and harassed by Yemeni security officials, the paper said.

More than 18 of the refugees were either seriously or slightly injured as a result of the torture and harassment by security forces during the round up operation, the refugees said.

Some of them also complained of forced separation of families by Yemeni authorities, while others alleged that their belongings were looted and U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) identity cards

confiscated.

The refugees, who are mainly from the southern regions of Somalia, now live on the extremely hot beach of Bosaso without shelter and adequate portable fresh water, except for small quantities of food and clothes given to them by their Somali communities and non-governmental organisations.

Some of the refugees have asked to be moved from Somaliland to their respective places of origin in southern Somalia. Somaliland proclaimed itself independent from the rest of Somalia when the late Somali dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was overthrown in January 1991.

Others, who are still suspicious of the fluid situation in Somalia, where clan warfare flares up from time to time, prefer to be sent back to Yemen to rejoin their families.

The refugees first fled from the civil war in Somalia in 1991 and boarded a dilapidated coal-transporting ship, Goobweyn I, but lost 200 of their number on board the ship when Yemeni coast officials refused them to land in Yemeni harbours.

Later many of them lost their beloved ones when they were caught up in the recent bloody civil war in Yemen between the north and south.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bardot wins pledge Lebanese to stop hunting
BEIRUT (AFP) — Environment Minister Pierre Pharaon on Saturday promised French actress Brigitte Bardot to ban hunting in 1996 if he is still in office. "It is too late this year, we can no longer ban hunting. If I am still in a position to take the decision, I assure you there will be no hunting next year," Mr. Pharaon told the French daily L'Orient-Le Jour. He was commenting on an open letter from Ms. Bardot to President Elias Hrawi in protest at the reversal of the government's decision to ban hunting for three years from Jan. 1. "For reasons which are more or less obscure, Samir Mokbel, your former environment minister, have reopened hunting this year," Ms. Bardot wrote. The actress, turned vigorous animal rights campaigner, appealed to Mr. Hrawi's "humanity" to declare an "armistice" so that the fauna in Lebanon already plundered can recover from the destruction. "Firearms are already used too much by men. The world and the Middle East have been ripped apart enough by cruelty and violence to allow an example of destruction to be continued on defenceless animals."

Kuwaiti policeman held for attempted rape
KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti policeman has been arrested on charges of trying to rape a U.S. woman after kidnapping her. Al Watan newspaper reported on Saturday. The American, who was not named, escaped and alerted the U.S. embassy. The policeman stopped the woman for an identity check and said he was taking her in a police station because she did not have the right papers, the American said. But he took her to his home south of the capital and tried to rape her. The interior minister declined to comment and the embassy was closed.

Turk stole to pay wife's hospital bill
ISTANBUL (R) — A Turkish man who staged two robberies to pay his wife's medical bills and get her released from hospital was sentenced to 40 years in prison. Turkish newspapers reported on Saturday. Haci Kuru told the court the hospital in the southern city of Adana refused to release his wife until a 100 million lira (\$2,079) bill was paid, papers reported without giving the date of the hearing.

First gay festival in Turkey banned
ISTANBUL (AP) — The governor's office Friday banned Turkey's first gay festival, saying it would offend society's values. The gay-lesbian cultural festival was scheduled to start Saturday. Movies, documentaries and panel discussions were planned the week-long festival. The Turkish Lambda Association, active since 1992, organised the festival in an attempt to present gay culture to a Muslim society where the topic is hardly ever discussed openly. The governor is appointed by the central government in Ankara. Turkey, with a population of 62 million, is a predominantly Muslim but secular country.

Belgian frigate leaves for Gulf
BRUSSELS (AFP) — The Belgian frigate F-910 Wielingen will leave Belgium on Tuesday for the Gulf to help enforce a U.N. embargo against Iraq. The Belgian defence ministry said Friday. Belgium is sending the ship, with a crew of 160, in response to a request from the United States.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO
14:00 The Filmstones
14:30 The Mighty Jungle
15:00 Pugwall Summer
15:30 Time Riders
16:00 Families
17:00 Children's Programme — Raban
17:30 Telefilm — LeJap
19:00 News in French
19:15 Ushia
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Cinema, Cinema
20:00 Nurses
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Startibhr
22:00 News in English
22:25 Shadows of the Heart (pt. 2 of 2)
23:59 Returns to Eden
00:30 Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES
04:47 Fajr
06:07 Sunrise
12:35 Dhur
16:10 Asr
19:03 Maghrib
20:23 Isha

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swethels, Tel. 810749
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771781
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 041195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to drop slightly and humidity to rise so that fine weather conditions will prevail during the day becoming cool at night, and winds north-westerly active. In Agatha, winds will be northerly active and seas choppy.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/27

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agatha 24 / 34
Deserts 15 / 30
Jordan Valley 22 / 33

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Agatha 35, Humidity readings: Amman 51 per cent, Agatha 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Muzahrah 820425
Dr. Khalid M'addi 743500
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 649028
Dr. Salman Al Daboun 776751
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaouph pharmacy 649495
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hila 279773
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Fagih 906130
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Overseas Calls 630411
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 778121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 638321
Hotel Complaints 628800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.

Jabal Amman Maternity 642441/2
Mallat, J. Amman 634140
Palestine, Shmiciani 664171/4
Shmiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musader Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777012/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 778111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 607125
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)783323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865099
IBBID:
Pierces Baza Hospital (02)75555
Greys Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)74700
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200.

5. where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:10 Abu Dhabi (add) (RJ)
05:30 Bangkok (RJ)
06:40 Agaba (RJ)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Larnaca (RJ)
09:30 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:35 Beirut (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:55 Amsterdam, Brussels (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:50 Madrid (RJ)
21:25 London (RJ)
19:15 Athens (RJ)
19:25 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)
19:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
19:45 Paris, Geneva (RJ)
20:40 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
22:20 Cairo (RJ)
01:15 Athens (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:30 Rome (AZ)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Sanaa (Y)
14:30 Moscow (SU)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
01:25 Beirut, London (BA)
04:00 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
05:25 Madrid (RJ)
06:30 Agaba (RJ)
06:40 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:15 Rome (AZ)
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
12:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:25 Athens (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:25 Cairo (RJ)
21:25 New Delhi (RJ)
21:45 Athens (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 Bangkok (RJ)
23:45 Agaba (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
07:30 Rome (AZ)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
13:30 Sanaa (Y)
14:30 Moscow (SU)
21:25 Cairo (MS)
01:25 Beirut, London (BA)
04:00 Athens (OA)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Amman 5:30 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 600 / 400
Banana 680
Banana (Mukamar) 620
Cabbage 130 / 80
Carrot 320/200
Cauliflower 260/180
Cucumbers (large) 150 / 100
Cucumbers (small) 250 / 180
Eggplant 200 / 120
Figs 350/250
Grape 700/500
Lemon (green) 350/250
Lemon (yellow) 500 / 400
Marrow (large) 200 / 120
Marrow (small) 250 / 180
Mint 140 / 80
Okra 800 / 700
Onion (dry) 230 / 150
Orange 450/250
Peaches 650/350
Pepper (hot) 200 / 100
Pepper (sweet) 220 / 120
Pomegranate 350/250
Potato 240 / 150
Slicing Beans 650 / 500
Sweet Melon 280 / 180
Tomato 620/80
Water Melon 200 / 120

Princess Basma: Poverty affects development of society as a whole

By Caroline Faraj
Special to the Jordan Times

BEIJING — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said Saturday that poverty is a social disease that seriously affects the development of individuals, families and society as a whole.

It is unfortunate that when poverty becomes a major problem, as is the case today in many developing and least developed countries, women among all groups of the population are the ones to suffer first, said the Princess in an address to a press gathering organised by the Federation of Chinese Journalists in advance of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

In her address, entitled: "Women's Self Reliance: Overcoming Poverty," the Princess said various socio-cultural, economic and political reasons account for the susceptibility of women to poverty.

The lack of means for self-reliance for women leads in many societies to a great degree of dependence on others for support and subsequently for decisions that have serious consequences on their lives, said the Princess.

Princess Basma noted that the low educational level of women, compared to men, is usually one of the major factors contributing to women's poverty.

She said another factor which reduces women's self-reliance and increases their risks of exposure to poverty is the relatively narrow range of occupational and career choices available to women compared to men.

Social norms and practices, added the Princess, constitute other factors that frequently form barriers to efforts to promote women's self-reliance.



In addition, she said, women are sometimes denied their social and economic rights such as inheritance, family benefits, and credit facilities, with the result that they remain dependent on the male members of the family and indigent.

Princess Basma called for legislation which she said can be an effective tool in promoting women's self-reliance by providing the legal framework for the actions, activities and institutional set-ups that guarantee women's independence.

Promoting women's self-reliance, she continued, requires a concerted effort on many fronts, adding that voluntary organisations within the non-governmental sector can be important contributors as women are traditionally well-represented in them.

Appealing for joint work, the Princess concluded by saying: "Let us all therefore put our hands together to help women everywhere break out from the vicious cycle of poverty, ignorance and dependency in which

they have been trapped for so long.

Representatives of United Nations agencies attending the Beijing meetings delivered addresses at the same press gathering echoing the Princess's call for concerted efforts to improve the status of women.

They stressed that the solution to poverty requires unified efforts on the part of governments and concerned organisations to create opportunities for training and creating job opportunities.

The speakers said recent estimates about poverty in the Arab World say that nearly 73 million people live in poverty and the primary victims are the women, especially those living in rural regions.

Meanwhile, informal consultative meetings prior to the Sept. 4 official opening of the U.N. conference were under way in Beijing on Saturday.

Delegates from 185 nations are participating in the meeting which is being held amid stringent security measures.

King receives visiting Tunisian foreign minister President Ben Ali sends message to King calling for continued coordination in advancing pan-Arab issues

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein conferred at the Royal Court Saturday with visiting Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Al Habib Ben Yahya who delivered a message to the King from Tunisian President Zein Al Abideen Ben Ali on bilateral affairs and pan-Arab issues.

At the audience, which was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Qassem, King Hussein reviewed regional and international developments and discussed in particular, coordination between Tunis and Amman with regard to various issues of common concern, according to a statement following the meeting.

The King also conferred upon the Tunisian minister the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order.

The Tunisian foreign minister was also received Saturday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who said that Jordan seeks to develop its relations with Tunisia and benefit from its experience in its negotiations with the European Union (EU).

Jordan is also keen on working with Tunisia to help rehabilitate the Middle East region's economy, said the Crown Prince who

expressed hope that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference in October will help achieve that goal.

Stressing that Jordan was eager to advance cultural, social and political ties with Arab states, Prince Hassan said that the Kingdom hopes to achieve that goal through the activities of the Arab Thought Forum the AL al Bayt University and other institutions in the country.

For his part, the Tunisian minister expressed his country's desire to promote Jordanian-Tunisian relations at the bilateral and pan-Arab levels and said he hoped that the coming MENA conference will serve as a forum for achieving these ambitions and for further enhancing the cause of peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Ben Yahya was received earlier by the Prime Minister at a meeting during which the two officials reviewed Tunisian-Jordanian relations and issues of concern to the Arab World.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

The two sides also reviewed the recommendations taken by the Jordanian-Tunisian Higher Committee which met in Tunis in April.

Following the meetings, Mr. Ben Yahya told reporters



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday receives visiting Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Habib Ben Yahya (Petra photo)

that the message he brought to the King from his president called for continued Jordanian-Tunisian coordination in pan-Arab affairs.

He said that agreement was reached in the talks that a committee is to be formed to follow up the implementation of the recommendations of the higher committee.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti held separate

talks Saturday with Mr. Ben Yahya.

At that meeting, the Tunisian minister confirmed that his country will take active part in the coming MENA conference and will work towards its success.

Discussions at the meeting covered coordination and cooperation in several fields in implementation of recommendations by the joint Jordanian-Tunisian Higher

Committee which was held in Tunis last April.

The two sides discussed the idea of forming a committee to follow up the implementation of recommendations, according to a statement following the meeting.

Mr. Ben Yahya arrived here Thursday on a several-day visit.

Visiting Yemeni supply minister looks into adopting some of Jordan's food commodity supply strategies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Yemeni Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi Saturday held talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Adel Qudah, and said later that he hoped to benefit from Jordan's experience in subsidising basic food commodities to the needy and in ensuring strategic food supplies for Yemen.

In a statement to Jordan Television after the meeting, Mr. Afandi said his country hopes to bolster its trade with Jordan in implementation of the two countries' economic and trade deals.

For his part, Mr. Qudah said Mr. Afandi and his team arrived here to study the Ministry of Supply's systems of subsidising food commodities and storing sufficient food supplies for various governorates.

Mr. Qudah briefed his counterpart on his ministry's

programmes and functions, the work of the Civil Service Consumer Corporation for government employees, methods of controlling prices, especially of food commodities, and inspection of food products for consumption safety.

Mr. Qudah also briefed the Yemeni visitors on government purchases of locally produced cereals, and on the silos in Jweideh south of Amman and those in northern Jordan near Irbid.

Ministry of Supply Secretary General Mustafa Khleifat told the visitors that Jordan was raising its silo storage capacity to 525,000 tonnes by next year.

Mr. Afandi and his accompanying delegation are scheduled to visit various silos and storage facilities operated by the Ministry of Supply.



Minister of Supply Adel Qudah and senior ministry officials Saturday meet with a visiting Yemeni delegation led by Minister of Supply and Trade Mohammad Afandi (Petra photo)

Sudan denies hiding suspects

(Continued from page 12)

Ahmad Shahit Ali, also known as Siraj Mohammad, Hanta is an Egyptian who was sentenced to death in absentia by an Egyptian court in 1992 for anti-government activities. Egyptian security officials believe he is in Sudan and is active in helping to move Muslim extremists between the two countries.

Shahit Ali, whom the Egyptians identify as Hussein Ahmad Ali Shamiet or Siraj Mohammad, is said to carry a Sudanese passport. The nationality of Yassin is not known.

Sudan said that as a result of the special committee's investigations, it has taken a number of security measures, including a requirement for entry visas and mandatory alien registration. But Ethiopians are exempt from the visa requirement, the statement said.

Egypt has repeatedly ac-

cused Sudan of helping the gunmen, who attacked Mr. Mubarak's motorcade as he drove into Addis Ababa to attend an African summit. Mr. Mubarak, unhurt, flew straight home.

The Sudanese statement said Sudan regretted the Ethiopian measures and disputed Ethiopia's allegations that Sudan had not cooperated in investigations.

It said Sudan received the Ethiopian request to hand over the three Egyptians 32 days after the assassination attempt on June 26 — that is on about July 28.

"Sudan dealt with the contents of the Ethiopian message at the highest level and with all the seriousness required," it said. Sudan replied that it was committed to its agreement with Ethiopia on the extradition of criminals, it added.

"The government set up a high-level committee... to investigate the information in

the Ethiopian message."

"The committee carried out investigations and ascertained that one of the accused — an Egyptian national who, according to the Ethiopian authorities, carried forged Ethiopian and Sudanese passports — entered the country before the incident took place and could not be found. It was not proved that the other two entered Sudan," the statement said.

The episode has brought relations between Cairo and Khartoum to their lowest point in years.

Egypt has driven Sudanese policemen out of the disputed Halaib triangle on the Red Sea coast and has campaigned to isolate the Sudanese government internationally.

The Sudanese statement said the government in Khartoum had responded to security concerns by reintroducing visas and checking all foreigners present in the country.

WHAT'S GOING ON

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES EXHIBITIONS

* Works of graphic art by several artists at the South Gallery.

* Photography show 'Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hodeib.

* Display of painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi.

* 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Basha and artist Ali Bermamet.

* Sculpture by Rajwa Bint Ali at the Open Air Sculpture workshop.

* Ceramic shop at the Lower Gardens.

* Works by contemporary artists at the Central Gallery.

3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi.

PLAY

* Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Mule" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Work by Ali Al 'Ubaidi at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* Works by Mohammad Ali Shakir at Ab'ad Art Gallery.

* Paintings by Palestinian artist Shamira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shomra Foundation, Jabal Amman.

* Exhibition of Egyptian products at the Amman International Auto Show, Airport Road.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

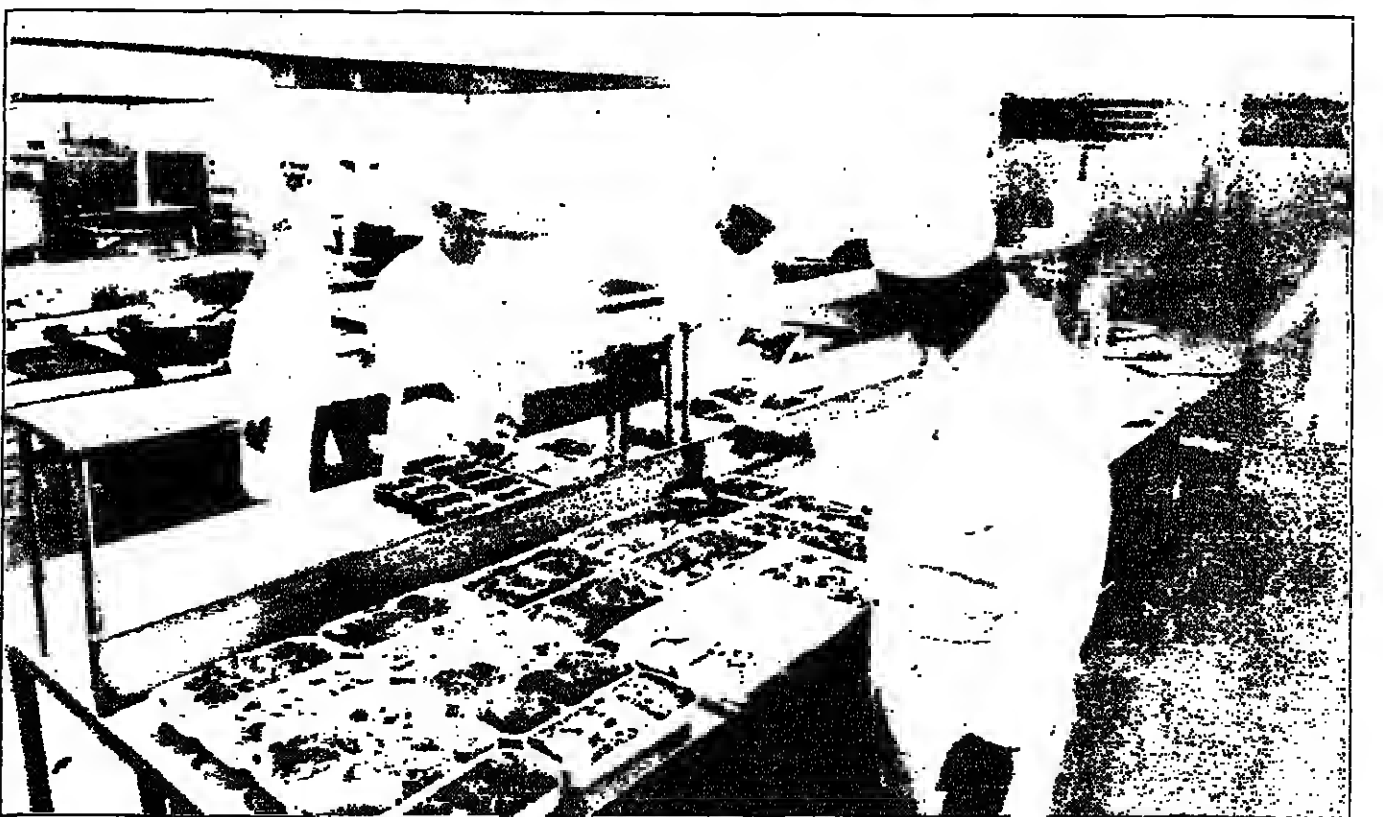
AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) President Nader Dahabi Saturday announced that the RJ Board of Directors has submitted a general report to the government including several recommendations to improve the debt situation of the national air carrier which is costing it \$42 million annually in interest alone.

The airline has called for immediate government intervention to help save the airline further losses and put it on a profit-making track, Mr. Dahabi said in a communiqué addressed to RJ employees.

The report recommended that RJ's capital be increased, more liquidity be pumped into its annual budget, that the government take charge of the airline's debts to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company and the Social Security Corporation, cover its losses to date and move towards commercialisation leading to future privatisation.

The debt burden is preventing the airline from executing ambitious plans for modernisation and development of its fleet. Mr. Dahabi said adding that it has already asked creditor banks to reschedule the repayment of the debt.

Mr. Dahabi's communiqué



Royal Jordanian Catering Department staff prepare meals for on-board service (file photo)

came a few days after the publication in the local press of a report on the RJ situation by a parliamentary committee which said it would soon submit its findings to the government.

According to that report RJ was in trouble because of several shortcomings, viola-

tions of rules and mishandling of funds, all of which, the report said, resulted in large financial losses over the years.

The committee report said that by the end of 1993, RJ owed JD 323.9 million to creditors.

But Mr. Dahabi said the

general performance of the airline has improved in the first half of 1995 compared with the same period last year in terms of revenues and a decline in operational costs at home and abroad. The RJ president, however, gave no figures.

He said RJ management

recently implemented some changes and transferred officials to new posts in order to achieve better performance by 'placing the right person in the right position,' especially in the maintenance, marketing, sales, financial and passenger services departments.

U.S. official warns Beijing on women's conference

HUAIROU, China, (R) — A senior U.S. official warned Saturday that heavy-handed Chinese security threatened the United Nations fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, and complained that he himself was being watched.

Timothy Wirth, undersecretary of state for global affairs and a senior member of the U.S. delegation, called on U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali to take action to stop intrusive surveillance and restrictions on freedom of speech.

"The United Nations... has to demonstrate here that they can be firm and pull this off," Wirth said.

Anger at blanket Chinese security hubbub over the non-governmental organisations (NGO) Forum on women that overlaps with the U.N. meeting and is now taking place in the remote Beijing suburb of Huairou Monday.

On the fourth day of the NGO Forum Saturday, organisers gave Chinese officials 24 hours to ease. The U.N. conference opens Monday.

When the deadline expires, said conference committee member Salama Fulvial, women delegates would be asked: "Say what do you want. Do you want to cancel? Do you want to boycott? Do you want to riot?"

"I cannot decide that from here," said Ms. Fulvial, director of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

"We will go back to our constituencies to discuss appropriate action," said Irene Santiago, the Forum's Filipino executive director, after meeting Chinese officials earlier in the day to press the women's com-

plaints.

Controversy has surrounded the NGO Forum since April when Chinese authorities panicked at the idea of radical feminists, including lesbians and human rights activists, roaming free in central Beijing and shifed the site to Huairou.

Their refusal to issue visas to scores of Tibetan women exiles fuelled more bitterness.

Once at the conference site, now a muddy swamp as a result of summer downpours, delegates found themselves surrounded by a large number of plainclothes security agents carrying video cameras and walkie-talkies.

Human rights activists and journalists were shadowed most closely.

Beijing banned anti-Chinese demonstrations and said other kinds of protests must be held in approved areas.

The Earth Times, a U.N.-endorsed newspaper that provides daily coverage of U.N. meetings, is still waiting for approval to publish its first edition featuring a column by U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton.

Chen Muhua, president of the All-China Women's Federation, the official Chinese hosts of the U.N. conference, defended the need for security at one of the largest meetings ever organised by the world body.

"To guarantee the smooth running of the conference and the NGO Forum, we have taken the necessary security and protection measures," she told a news conference. "If there were no proper measures, there would be confusion and lack of order and the meeting could not be held."

"If people feel something is not convenient, and have a specific demand, we can discuss how to improve the situation."

Mr. Wirth said the issue of security would now become a major focus at the U.N. conference.

He said he himself was being blatantly watched and was aware of similar complaints from reporters.

"We are going to be in a situation where the United Nations is going to have to step up and be very, very firm with the host country and with the commitments that they have," he said.

Meanwhile exiled Tibetan women accused Beijing Saturday of genocide and forced abortion in their Himalayan homeland and told Forum that China had sabotaged their workshop just minutes earlier.

Women from the Chinese-ruled region in an officially sponsored delegation disputed the charges, saying they were the real Tibetans, and challenged the exiles to come to talk to them.

The clash graphically underscored the tension surrounding participation by exiled followers of the Dalai Lama at the forum.

The nine women from the independent Tibetan women's delegation clashed at their workshop with the Chinese-sponsored Tibetans and fled in tears when they were shouted down by their homeland colleagues.

At the workshop, some of the nine had given testimony on human rights abuses and nuclear pollution in their remote Himalayan homeland, saying poorly educated nomads were bearing the brunt of environmental degradation caused by Chi-

nese uranium mines and nuclear facilities.

The nine, dressed in brightly coloured traditional skirts and jackets, accused China of flooding Tibet with Chinese immigrants and of tough birth control policies such as forced abortion and sterilisation that amounted to genocide.

China says ethnic Han Chinese make up just five per cent of the population.

Female dissidents and nuns who took part in pro-independence activities in the deeply religious Buddhist region were routinely tortured and raped, the exiles said.

A Tibetan from the Chinese group got up and began to make a speech, and a shouting match erupted when the exiles told her she was permitted to ask questions but not to orate.

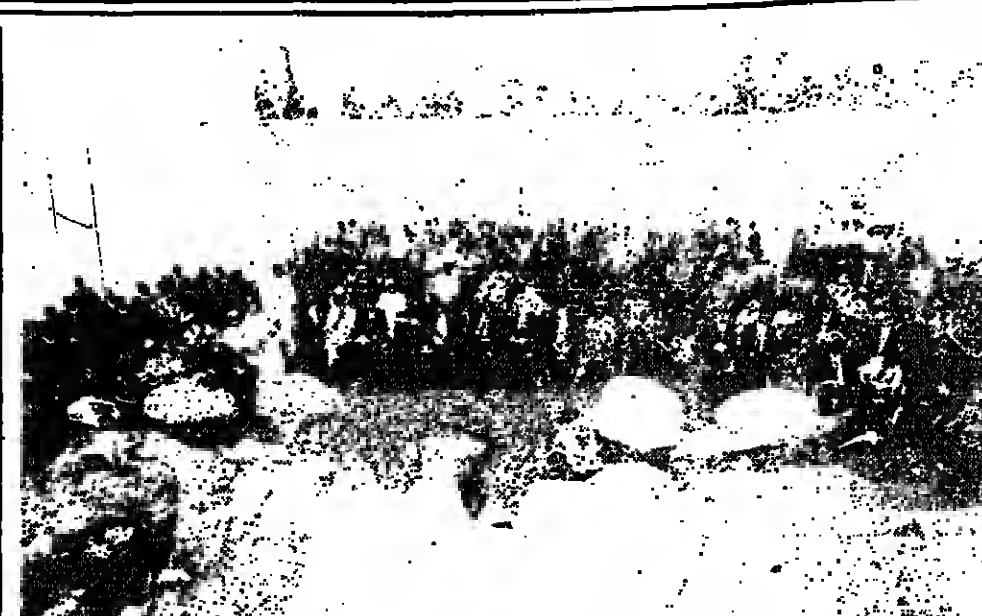
Other members of the Chinese-sanctioned group began to heckle and shout.

"I got totally out of hand," exile delegate Tenki Tendus Davis said later.

The exiles, who have been followed and filmed by Chinese security officials since they arrived earlier this week, began a Buddhist chant. When the women from their homeland shouted and booed, they fled the room in tears. The workshop broke up in disarray.

"It was very upsetting," said Tendus Davis.

Official Tibetan delegates had been planted in the small room for the workshop and tried to take it over, making it impossible to continue the meeting, said delegation member Yodon Thondon, whose parents fled Tibet after an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959.



ECOMOG soldiers assist the ceremonies of state council in the Liberian capital, Monrovia, during which the three opposition parties' leaders took an oath of respect to the peace accords signed a month ago (AFP photo)

Liberia enjoys first fruits of peace

MONROVIA (AFP) — Hours after three Liberian warlords swore oaths of office to respect and defend the laws of the country they have torn to pieces for nearly six years, people here are breathing a nervous sigh of relief at the peace no-one dared believe in.

"I think it's going to work. Everybody's fed up with them, man," a policeman on the beat told AFP.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, over 12,000 refugees have already returned to the country since the signing on Aug. 19 of a peace agreement.

The deal struck in Nigeria's federal capital Abuja is reckoned to be the 11th since the war started Dec. 24, 1989.

African ECOMOG peacekeepers are everywhere in the capital and are even now moving in areas controlled by Charles Taylor's national patriotic front (NPFL), until recently implacably hostile to the force.

A few aid lorries are already crossing into NPFL areas.

Among the new council's six members are the three most powerful faction leaders — Mr. Taylor, Alhaji Kromah of the Mandingo wing of the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO) and George Boley of the Liberia Peace Council (LPC).

All have to live in Monrovia during the transition period.

Mr. Taylor has openly declared he wants to run for the presidency, assuming elections are held as scheduled next August.

Radio stations are already running advertisements for his new National Patriotic Party, as the warlord prepares to turn statesman.

Electric current has just been restored to Monrovia's city centre, reducing the hum of fuel-powered generators.

Earlier this year the 7 p.m. (1900 GMT) curfew was moved back to 10 p.m. (2200 GMT) and many hope it may soon be lifted altogether.

Belief in peace has given the national currency sudden strength, even though two different types of notes are circulating in areas controlled by the NPFL and elsewhere.

The question of which will ultimately be legal tender is unresolved.

The Liberian dollar, recently trading at around 55 to one U.S. dollar, subsided to around 30 to one in Monrovia on the day the council took office, although some money changers were offering as little as 15.

People arriving from Mr. Taylor's headquarters town of Gbarnga, 160 kilometres to the northeast, said that in NPFL areas the exchange rate was 18 to one.

At the inauguration representatives of all sides said they believe the latest peace accord will finally end a war which appeared too multi-sided to resolve.

Close Taylor ally Momolu Sirleaf told AFP he was "optimistic".

A representative of the rival Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) took the same line, even though the AFL and one other faction initially refused to sign the Abuja agreement.

Representative Monie Captain said that the faction's concerns had been allayed by the nomination of AFL Chief of Staff General Hezekiah Bowen to the defence ministry in the new government, full details of which are expected to be released shortly.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy Dan Smith described the surprise, whirlwind peace as "the best thing for Liberia for a very long time."

But one foreign businessman was more circumspect, referring to tussles between armed factional bodyguards and peacekeepers, not to mention rumoured threats to alleged factional "deserters" living in the capital.

"My fear is that they have brought the war into Monrovia," he said.

Mr. Taylor set off the conflict with a rebellion against the bloodstained regime of dictator Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death by an NPFL splinter group nine months later in Monrovia.

Over 150,000 have been killed in the fighting, while over two-thirds of Liberia's 2.5 million pre-war population have been forced to leave their homes.

Masai warrior husband ordered out of Britain

LONDON (R) — A Masai warrior who married a British divorcee he met while she was holidaying in Kenya has been ordered out of Britain. Cheryl Mason, 35, who married 25-year-old Daniel Lekimencho in a blaze of publicity on St. Valentine's Day in February, said they had fallen victim to government red tape.

"Daniel and I will live on the moon together if necessary. He has been learning English and has been offered a job as a camera assistant. This government makes me sick," she told reporters Friday after hearing of the decision. "Apart from me having a nervous breakdown, I don't know what I can do," she said after Interior Ministry officials confirmed that they had refused to renew his visitor's visa. He must leave Britain by Sept. 7.

"We really have been made to feel like a couple of criminals. The crime is getting married," Ms. Mason said. Officials consistently refuse to comment on individual decisions but did say that visitor visas were issued on specific conditions. The holders should not take paid employment but have enough money to support them. The position was not necessarily changed by marriage, one official said. "Immigration officials have to be satisfied that everything is above board and that the marriage is for the best of reasons."

Streep's down 'injurious' to reputation of Philippine women

MANILA (AFP) — Movie censors' chief Henrietta Mendez has defended a ban on the public showing of The Bridges of Madison County, saying Meryl Streep's exhibition of her public hair was harmful to the prestige of Philippine women.

"There is public hair exposure which in the judgment of the board applying contemporary Filipino cultural values as standard is contrary to our good customs," the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board chairman said in a letter to the film's local distributor. The act "is injurious to the prestige of the Filipino women," she said in the letter, whose excerpts were carried Friday by the Manila Times newspaper.

The film chronicles a torrid, four-day affair between a National Geographic magazine photographer, played by Clint Eastwood, and a bored Iowa farmer's wife, played by Streep. The movie was to have premiered here later this month. Warner Brothers Inc. earlier said it would appeal the board's decision, which centred on a scene in which Streep examines her naked body in the mirror. Ms. Mendez, a devout Roman Catholic, has previously provoked intellectual circles here when her board banned in succession Academy Award-winning movies like Schindler's List, The Piano and Belle Epoque — the first two for nudity and the latter for ridiculing religion.

No sexy Martini commercials, please — we're British

LONDON (AFP) — British television has banned a commercial for Martini since it supposedly links alcohol with sex appeal, a spokesman said at the Independent Television Commission (ITC). The commercial, used in a number of other European countries, shows a young woman who gets up to walk toward an attractive Martini-drinking man. Her miniskirt catches on the chair and starts to unravel, gradually revealing her bare posterior. The commission has not received any complaints, but ruled that the commercial ran counter to its rules against advertising that suggests that drinking alcohol increases sex appeal.

Dhaka police battle bomb-throwing pickets

DHAKA (R) — Police fought running battles with bomb and rock-throwing pickets enforcing a 32-hour opposition strike in the Bangladesh capital Saturday, in which nearly 50 people were injured, witnesses said.

They said four people hurt by bombs were taken to hospital but their identities were not immediately known. Police said they arrested three activists.

The battles erupted hours after the start of the nationwide strike calling for early elections supervised by a caretaker administration.

Home Ministry officials said nearly 6,000 police and paramilitary soldiers were deployed in the capital, Dhaka, a city of nine million, to prevent violence and damage to public property.

Witnesses said militant activists set fire to a taxi outside Dhaka's military barracks and hurled bombs at police in the city's commercial districts of Motijheel and Gulistan.

Police used truncheons and tear gas to drive away the pickets.

Police said most of the bombs were types of firecrackers but some were stuffed with explosives and metal fragments.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia warned Friday that she would not tolerate

any attempt to destroy public property.

"Any attempt to destroy public property would be dealt with a heavy hand. If anyone suffers in that process it would not be a responsibility of the government," she told a rally of her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Police earlier said nearly 50 people were injured in clashes between opposition activists and their rivals in Narayanganj, a suburb of Dhaka, on the eve of the strike.

Fourteen student activists of the main opposition Awami League, headed by Sheikh Hasina, were hurt in another battle in the coastal district of Noakhali Friday afternoon, police said.

The strike was called by Awami League and two of its allies, the Jatiya Party led by jailed former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad and the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami in their latest attempt to topple Ms. Khaleda.

Roads were empty, except for a few rickshaws, in Dhaka and other main cities including the port of Chittagong, witnesses said.

Offices were mostly closed but some government ministers and senior bureaucrats slept in their offices overnight, police said.

The stoppage shut the

Dhaka Stock Exchange and the ports of Chittagong and Mongla. Train services were largely disrupted but domestic flights operated in the morning with few passengers, railway and airline officials said.

The current political crisis intensified in December when 147 opposition legislators resigned from the 330-member parliament to try to bring down Mrs. Khaleda's government.

Mrs. Khaleda Friday renewed her offer for talks with the opposition to try to resolve the crisis.

She rejected opposition demands to step down to allow for early elections under a neutral caretaker administration as "unconstitutional and unacceptable".

Opposition leaders Saturday turned down Mrs. Khaleda's latest offer of talks, saying the prime minister was trying to "hood-wink" people.

Mrs. Hasina urged people to make the strike a "complete success" and warned that stiffer actions would follow to force Mrs. Khaleda from power. Mrs. Khaleda said she would not quit under pressure.

Mrs. Khaleda was elected in 1991 in what were billed as Bangladesh's first free polls. The next election is not due until March.

Taiwan calls on China for harmony

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui, softening his defiant tone toward China, appealed to Beijing Saturday to restore harmony to their strained relations.

"Both sides must have a new recognition to adopt pragmatism to reach real harmonisation to build a beneficial climate for China's reunification," the presidential office quoted Mr. Lee as saying.

The statement is in a speech Lee is due to deliver for Soldier's Day Sunday.

Insisting that "Chinese should help Chinese", Mr. Lee said the Chinese fought undivided against the Japanese to win victory 50 years ago.

He offered no substantive concessions to China but the tone of his speech was clearly aimed at patching up relations which have slumped to their lowest point since a thaw began in the early 1980s.

Harking back to days of warmer relations, Mr. Lee said a relatively conciliatory speech given by China's President Jiang Zemin in January and his own reply in April should form the basis of the relationship.

Mr. Jiang said that "Chinese should not fight Chinese" and offered high-level meetings between the two rivals which split at the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

But Mr. Jiang's warmth vanished in June as Beijing vehemently criticised a landmark private trip which Mr. Lee made to the United States. China regards Taiwan as a rebel province which is not entitled to international ties.

Beijing cut off all regular meetings between the two sides and began testing missiles in the sea near Taiwan in what Taipei officials said was an attempt to foment panic.

China also lambasted Mr. Lee, calling him a "schemer" who should be tossed into the dustbin of history.

Angola, UNITA pledge free movement

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The Angolan government and the rebel UNITA movement have pledged to allow the free movement of people and goods through the country, except for troops, state radio reported Friday night.

The move was announced in a joint statement in the Angolan capital of Luanda signed by Fernando Faisao Muteka and Isaias Samakuva, the respective heads of the government and UNITA delegations to the joint commission overseeing the implementation of the peace accords.

In the statement read out on Angolan state radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), they said the move was in pursuit of an annex to last November's Lusaka peace agreement stating free

movement of people and goods was imperative for a return to normal life and the implementation of a ceasefire after 19 years of civil war.

The government and UNITA reiterated their readiness to implement political, military, and other measures to permit Angolans to enjoy the conditions for normal life within the bounds of the constitution, the statement said.

The two sides said that with the backing of U.N. peacekeepers they had tried to further strengthen the ceasefire and had disengaged their forces, repaired bridges and roads, and cleared some land mines.

"Nonetheless, the sides note that these measures are inadequate to halt opposing efforts," the statement said,

adding that checkpoints controlling access to and from cities and towns should only be set up "for the control of epidemics".

"In line with that, the free movement of people and goods should be allowed nationwide in areas still under UNITA military occupation or controlled by the government, except military personnel in uniform as stated in the Lusaka Protocol."

Angola has been mostly peaceful since the November accord in Zambia between UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the government to end the civil war that erupted on independence from Portugal in 1975. The U.N. has sent in the first units of a 7,600-strong peacekeeping force.

Senior IFP leader predicts Zulu party will rule South Africa

WELLINGTON, S. Africa (AFP) — Senior Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Sipo Mzimela predicted Saturday that the Zulu nationalist party would win South Africa's next general election.

Mr. Mzimela said the IFP was benefiting from public anger over the failure of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) to deliver on its promises, made during campaigning for last year's first all-race election.

"In 1999 (when the next election is due), the IFP will replace the ANC as government of this country," said Mr. Mzimela, who is deputy national chairman of the IFP and one of three IFP cabinet members in President Nelson Mandela's unity government.

Mr. Mzimela was speaking in this small town in the Cape Winelands at a congress of the Klering Weerstandsbeweging, or coloured resistance movement, a small militant group demanding a separate homeland for people of mixed-race descent.

Mr. Mzimela said the IFP supported their demands, drawing a parallel to the IFP's struggle for Zulu self-determination in its stronghold province of KwaZulu-Natal.

Mr. Mzimela, who is correctional services minister, said the ANC wanted to dominate South Africa through a strong central government, and he urged coloureds to fight for self-determination.

The IFP won just over 10

per cent of the national vote in last April's election, and their support was concentrated in KwaZulu-Natal, where they won just over 50 per cent of the provincial vote to win control of the provincial government.

Coloureds, who at around 3.5 million make up less than 10 per cent of South Africa's population, voted massively for the formerly ruling National Party (NP) in last year's election, a move analysts believe was motivated out of fear of black domination by the ANC.

Mr. Mzimela said the NP, led by Deputy President Frederik De Klerk, was a party of "thieves (and) murderers" and would never change from supporting apartheid.

IRA vows to hold on to arms jolts peace process

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland's faltering peace process was jolted Saturday when IRA guerrillas vowed they would not surrender weapons they used in a 25-year war against British rule.

An Irish Republican Army spokesman said there was "absolutely no question of any IRA decommissioning at all, either through the back door or the front door".

The IRA comments, reported by Irish Radio, were believed to be the first on the record statement by the guerrillas of their determination not to give up as much as a single bullet to meet London's conditions for their inclusion in all-party talks.

British and Irish officials declined comment on the

statement but political analysts said it dealt a blow to Anglo-Irish hopes of early progress towards ending political deadlock in the British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Britain is adamant that all-party talks will not be held until the IRA and pro-British Protestant guerrillas who called ceasefires last year, discard their weapons as proof of a genuine commitment to peace.

The two prime ministers, Britain's John Major and Ireland's John Bruton, are to meet near London Wednesday and are expected to unveil plans for an international arms body in a bid to break the stalemate over weapons surrender.

Sinn Fein has maintained

that an IRA arms handover is a non-starter in advance of all-party agreement on the future of Northern Ireland. Protestant militants say it is too early for them to hand in their weapons.

The IRA declared "a complete cessation of military operations" a year ago this week to win Sinn Fein a seat at all-party peace talks.

On Thursday in a statement marking the ceasefire anniversary, they voiced "deepening disappointment" that Britain had failed to grasp the opportunity of peace and invite all parties around the table.

The statement expressed support for Sinn Fein's political approach and made no threat to return to war.

Police search for killers of top Punjab official

CHANDIGARH, India (AP) — Investigators removed at least 16 policemen from their jobs for security lapses and hunted for two Sikh youths in connection with the assassination of a top elected official in northern Punjab state, officials said Saturday.

A Sikh militant group has claimed responsibility for the car bomb that killed Punjab's chief minister, Beant Singh, 73, on Thursday. Fifteen of his staff also died in the blast outside the state's main government building.

Mr. Singh was cremated in Chandigarh Saturday with full state honours. Thousands of people lined a six-kilometre (four-mile) route to pay respects as his body, draped in the national flag, was carried on a military gun carriage.

His sons, Tej Prakash

Singh and Sukhwant Singh, lit the pyre as military buglers sounded the last post and artillery guns boomed in homage.

On Saturday, investigating agencies raided suspected hideouts of rebel groups in the northern state.

A day after an investigation was launched, Punjab police suspended 16 junior policemen, said officials speaking on condition of anonymity. They did not give details of why the policemen were suspended.

Federal investigators released pencil sketches of two Sikhs, about 24 years old, who had bought a car for 30,000 rupees (\$1,000) in New Delhi about two weeks ago. Police found the car abandoned near the blast site with a remote control device that could have triggered the explosive in Mr.

Singh's car, said K.P.S. Gill, the state police chief.

The sketches were prepared on the basis of descriptions given by the car's previous owner.

On Saturday, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao flew to Chandigarh and offered tributes to Mr. Singh and consoled his family.

Jaswant Kaur, Mr. Singh's widow, broke down as Mr. Rao said: "We are with you."

Before Mr. Rao's arrival from New Delhi, his security staff disarmed nearly 2,000 local policemen posted in and around the chief minister's residence where Singh's body was kept before the cremation.

The body was later taken in an open flower-bedecked truck to Mr. Singh's native village 80 kilometres north-west of Chandigarh, to enable people there to pay

homage.

On Friday, Babbar Khalsa International, one of the three militant groups that survived the anti-insurgency operation by Indian forces to crush a 10-year separatist campaign in Punjab in 1992, claimed responsibility for killing Mr. Singh. During the insurrection, a dozen militant groups were demanding a Sikh homeland called Khalistan, or "Land of the Pure."

"Beant Singh had come on top of our hit list after he betrayed our Sikh community. We had to give the death sentence to him because of this," the Babbar Khalsa International said in a statement faxed to an Indian news agency.



Mourners in Chandigarh weep in front of a picture of Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh who was killed in a massive bomb blast on Aug. 31. Thousands of residents filed past the coffin of the assassinated leader to pay their last respects ahead of the funeral (AFP photo).

Worries over Western hostages in Kashmir grow

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Concern over the fate of four Westerners held hostage by guerrillas in Kashmir grew Saturday after Indian authorities failed to make headway in crucial talks with the militants, officials and diplomats said.

Officials said negotiations by radio late Friday brought the two sides no closer to an agreement that would lead to the release of the four tourists after eight weeks in captivity.

"Nothing is moving forward," an official who asked not to be identified said after the meeting. "Al Faran's attitude is hardening."

Another radio contact was planned for Saturday, authorities said. Diplomats monitoring the negotiations said Saturday's talks could prove critical as Al Faran militants appeared to be running out of patience.

Indian authorities have said talks are in a delicate

phase and appealed to Al Faran to spare the lives of American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells.

Army soldiers and paramilitary troops Saturday imposed a brief curfew on three towns near the region where the tourists were abducted. The clamp-down on Anantnag, Bijbehara and Achabal towns was lifted at about 11:30 a.m. (0600 GMT), some four and a half hours after it was imposed.

All three towns are in the district where the tourists were abducted by Al Faran militants.

Authorities did not say why the curfew was imposed or whether it was related to efforts to win the release of the captives.

The four foreign tourists were kidnapped in the Pahalgam mountains 60 kilometres from Anantnag town, which is the headquar-

ters of Anantnag administrative district.

Anantnag town is 55 kilometres from Srinagar, summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Authorities believe Al Faran has been moving the four hostages within the region to try to avoid detection.

Officials have not said whether they have located the captive tourists and their abductors.

The government has said it does not want to carry out a raid in the remote Himalayan region to rescue the hostages as it could imperil their lives.

One official said negotiations were deadlocked as Al Faran continued to insist that India release three jailed Pakistani militants, Masood Azhar, Sajjad Afghani and Mansoor Langriyal, belonging to the Harkat-ul-Ansar movement.

Al Faran appears particu-

larly keen to win the release of Mr. Azhar, who is considered an especially powerful Harkat member.

But during this week's talks, Indian negotiators repeated their refusal to free the Pakistanis. "The government says no to the release of the Pakistanis," one official said earlier in the week.

India has said it will not swap militants for the hostages, arguing such a bargain would encourage future kidnappings.

New Delhi has said the three jailed Pakistanis are among hardcore militants belonging to Harkat-ul-Ansar, which the government says is linked to Al Faran. Harkat-ul-Ansar says it is not tied with Al Faran and has "condemned" the abductions.

But authorities have said some jailed separatists could be freed in the course of the regular screening of their status.

Russians, Chechens plan POW swap next week

MOSCOW (AFP) — Fourteen Russian prisoners-of-war are due to be exchanged for 145 detained Chechen fighters in the next few days, military negotiators from both sides announced at peace talks in Grozny Saturday.

Aslan Maskhadov, commander of Chechen separatist forces, said the Joint Observer Commission had decided to organise the exchange according to the principle of "all for all," based on the number of prisoners who could be handed over immediately.

Subsequent prisoner exchanges would take place "without any conditions," Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Maskhadov as saying.

A dispute over numbers held by each side has

delayed a prisoner exchange, which was due to have been completed by Aug. 7 under a Russian-Chechen demilitarisation accord signed on July 30.

Russia has presented a list of 54 prisoners it says the Chechens are holding, while the separatists say the Russians are holding between 3,000 and 9,000 Chechen prisoners. The Russians have admitted holding some 1,300 Chechens (fighters and civilians).

The deputy commander of Russian interior troops in the breakaway Caucasus republic said Saturday Chechen fighters had handed over 1,100 weapons since the accord was signed.

Vladislav Bykovsky, quoted by Interfax, told reporters that no weapons were handed over in the devastated

Chechen capital Grozny Friday, but many Chechens had visited the military headquarters to ask about the conditions for surrendering weapons.

The Moscow-backed commander for Chechnya, General Arkady Baskayev, called on residents of Grozny to hand over their weapons from Sept. 1 to 3 at four military command posts in the city, Interfax News Agency said.

Compensation of up to one million rubles (\$220) would be paid for each weapon.

Oleg Lobov, the Kremlin's new troubleshooter in Chechnya, said Wednesday elections could not be held there until most Chechen separatist fighters had surrendered their weapons.

The Chechens still had some 70,000 arms, Mr.

Lobov said, citing Russian experts, and "under such conditions it would be illogical to hold elections" soon.

Mr. Lobov is due to return to Chechnya Tuesday, Interfax said. Under the accord, lightly armed Chechen self-defence units of up to 25 men will be set up in each village after the separatists have handed over their weapons.

Meanwhile, Russian troops are due to pull out in stages from Chechnya, eventually leaving behind one brigade of Interior Ministry troops and one mechanised army brigade.

Around 30,000 people have died since Russian forces stormed into Chechnya in December to crush a three-year independence bid led by Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Tigers set terms to free Sri Lanka ferry hostages

COLOMBO (R) — Women Sea Tigers who hijacked a Sri Lankan ferry with 144 people aboard have agreed to free most of the captives but set key conditions to release those they have taken hostage, a source close to the crisis said Saturday.

"There are important, potentially difficult, conditions to be met for the release of some people they have taken prisoners," the source told Reuters.

He declined to spell out the conditions set by the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE), saying: "It is too sensitive to talk about now."

It was also not clear how many people the Tigers had decided to keep as hostages.

But the source said most of the people seized aboard the ferry, other passengers were on their way to Jaffna, the LTTE's headquarters in the

rebel-held north, the sources said.

ICRC officials, negotiating the release of the hostages, declined to identify them or say why they had been singled out.

The military said it did not know what was going on aboard the ferry. The ICRC, asked by the government to intervene, said it had talked to the LTTE about the passengers but that the contents of those talks were confidential.

The ferry is lying four kilometres north of Mullaitivu in the northeast, 500 metres off shore.

Mr. Devananda said the guerrillas probably used the passengers to lure two naval vessels where they could be attacked, one with suicide frogmen armed with mines.

He said monitoring of the rebel communications had shown suicide Sea Tigers

had mined the Dvora fast-attack craft after it had approached the ferry.

Two Israeli-built Dvoras were sunk, killing 21 sailors. The Tigers lost two trawlers carrying an estimated 60 rebels between them.

Mr. Devananda said 15 children under the age of seven were on board the Iris Mona when it set sail from the eastern port of Trincomalee Monday.

All communications between the vessel and the military, which has been monitoring its movements, have been cut.

Voice of Tiger radio transmissions, over which the LTTE publicises its military successes, had been jammed, residents said, suggesting that a military offensive was imminent.

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Cuban exile flotilla boat sinks; 1 dead

MIAMI (R) — A flotilla of boats headed for Cuba and crewed by Cuban exiles turned back to Florida Saturday after one vessel sank and a passenger died, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

A Coast Guard statement said the Sundown Two sank with 47 people aboard 16 kilometres south of Key West, and a man who was flown by helicopter to a hospital in the Florida Keys was later pronounced dead.

The Spanish-language network Telemundo reported that the man died of a heart attack. Telemundo said the flotilla protest of more than a dozen boats was cancelled after the sinking.

A Coast Guard cutter and a navy helicopter rescued 26 of the sunken boat's passengers and the rest were picked up by other boats in the flotilla.

The flotilla protest, the second in less than two months, was organised by right-wing Cuban exiles

who oppose Cuban President Fidel Castro and Communist rule on the island.

Mr. Castro's daughter, Alina Fernandez Revuelta, who defected to the United States two years ago, was among those in the flotilla but was not on the boat that sank.

Cuban Navy vessels patrolled the seas off Havana Saturday to stop the flotilla from entering Cuba's waters.

The government of the Caribbean island had warned the exiles in recent weeks that it would employ all necessary measures, including shooting down or sinking unauthorised planes or vessels, to defend Cuba's sovereignty.

Witnesses saw a number of Cuban patrol boats off the Havana coast early Saturday.

These were the only visible signs of Cuba's readiness to repel the protest flotilla from Florida.

Last July 13, boats and planes crewed by Miami-based exiles penetrated Cuban waters and airspace to mourn the 1994 sinking of a tugboat carrying Cuban refugees. Cuban Navy patrol boats headed them off and the government issued a strong protest.

Although most Cubans were aware that the exile flotilla was due to head toward Cuba Saturday, Havana's Malecon seafarers were a picture of tranquility in the morning. Other parts of the city's shoreline were also quiet.

Early-morning strollers enjoyed the sunshine, while fishermen cast their lines from the sea wall. Other anglers fished from inflated inner tube rafts further out to sea.

Neither Cuban radio nor the official newspaper Granma made any mention Saturday of the exile flotilla.

Cuban television broadcast a report Friday night on the

start of a new training period for the Cuban Armed Forces.

The report, without specifically mentioning the flotilla, included film of Cuban Navy vessels in training and brief comments from a navy captain who explained the navy's mission to protect the island's sovereignty.

The Cuban authorities and state media seemed anxious not to give publicity to the flotilla, which they have described as a "provocation" and "seaborne gangsterism" intended to sabotage ongoing cooperation on immigration issues between the U.S. and Cuban governments.

The exile flotilla headed toward Cuba two days before the island's National Assembly was scheduled to debate and approve a new foreign investment law whose aim is to attract foreign capital to help revitalize the recession-hit Cuban economy.

Russia blames Abkhazians for Georgia talks failure

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has blamed Abkhazian separatists for the collapse of their talks in Moscow this week with the Georgian government, Russian newspapers reported Saturday.

Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov told journalists on Friday that the Abkhaz side had effectively gone back on promises to recognise Georgia's territorial integrity and was showing a total lack of respect for its negotiating partners, as well as for the mediating role of Russia and the United Nations.

Describing the Abkhaz approach as irresponsible, Mr. Pastukhov said it could lead to fresh tension in the whole Caucasus region. He said the separatist leadership was trying to drag out the talks in the hope that December's parliamentary elections in Russia might bring its sympathisers to power.

About 250,000 Georgians fled the Abkhaz region in

1993 when separatists, backed by mercenaries and arms from Russia's north Caucasus region, drove out Georgian government troops in a lightning campaign.

The U.N. Security Council last month accused the Abkhazian side of blocking the refugees' return.

Initial Russian sympathy for the separatists has evaporated and Moscow is threatening to pull its peacekeeping troops out of the region, a move that could leave Georgia free to reoccupy the lush Black Sea coastal area by force.

Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, who escaped an assassination attempt this week, told Georgian radio in Tbilisi the Abkhaz side had rejected his offer of special statehood and a federation.



He said Georgia had made further concessions, "but it did not appear sufficient. You know all the options. Either a peaceful way or the other one. For the time being we are still struggling for a peaceful way," Mr. Shevardnadze said.

Mr. Pastukhov told reporters in Moscow Friday

the Abkhazian side was still insisting on being recognised as a subject of international law and a sovereign state, which was incompatible with the idea of Georgian territorial integrity.

No comment was available from the Abkhazian side.

Congress returns for showdown with Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fresh from a summer break, majority Republicans in Congress are ready to engage in historic battle with the Clinton administration and congressional Democrats over how much — and how fast — to shrink the government and its huge budget deficit.

Into the next three months or so, Congress will try to crank years of legislative work on such complex and divisive issues as welfare reform, tax reduction and federal health care spending.

But that's not all. There are other fights to be fought, including a possible attempt to override Mr. Clinton's veto of a bill lifting United States participation in the arms embargo against Bosnia. The House still has to act on a Senate-passed counterterrorism bill offered in the wake of the deadly bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City.

By comparison, congressional action through the first eight months of this

year — including the Republicans' vaunted "Contract With America" — has been little more than a preliminary skirmish.

Overshadowing it all is the possibility that the Democratic president and the first Republican-controlled Congress in 40 years will be unable to find common ground on spending and taxes. Such a scenario raises the specter of a protracted shutdown of the government and possibly even a first-ever default on the national debt.

"At some point, if we're going to avoid a real disaster, these folks have got to start talking to each other," said political science Professor Charles Jones of the University of Wisconsin.

"But I just think strategically it's to their advantage to push it right to the edge."

In a sense, the big questions already have been answered. Mr. Clinton in June conceded Republicans' main points: that the budget should be brought into hal-

ance, that Medicare spending should be reined in and that there should be some tax cuts.

But Republican lawmakers have so far largely ignored the president's prescription for how to achieve those goals. He wants to balance the budget in nine years; they want to do it in seven. He wants to trim projected Medicare spending by \$124 billion over seven years; they want to squeeze \$270 billion in Medicare savings. He wants a tax cut of \$105 billion and wants to focus much of it on encouraging secondary education; they want to slash \$245 billion, dividing the cuts between families with children and businesses.

Unless Republicans unexpectedly alter their plans, Mr. Clinton this month and next almost certainly will veto some of the 13 appropriations bills needed to finance government operations during the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

To avoid stalemate, Con-

gress and the president eventually will have to compromise because the Republican majorities — 54-46 in the Senate and 233-201 in the House — fall far short of the two-thirds necessary to override a veto.

Reaching a compromise, however, won't be easy. And failure to enact appropriations bills in time could force a shutdown of agencies and departments — anywhere from a few hours to a few days, which has happened as recently as 1990.

After the appropriations reconciliation bill, governing spending on automatically paid benefits for health care and welfare would include any tax cuts.

Its passage is not required to keep government going but it is essential for reducing the deficit. So, Republican leaders are threatening to tie it to a measure raising the federal debt ceiling from the current \$4.9 trillion.

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A fight worth taking

A RECENT poll in Israel indicates that 32 per cent of Israeli settlers are willing to vacate their settlements on Palestinian lands in return for "reasonable" compensation. As expected, about 26 per cent of the settlers are not willing to leave under any conditions. This is both good and bad news for the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The good news lies in the fact that a large proportion of Jewish settlers are more than ready to help the peace process. The explanation for this pragmatism on the part of so many Israelis colonising Arab lands is that 47 per cent of them, live in the settlements, for only economic reasons. This is the category of Israeli settlers, who should be targeted for easy repatriation behind the green line. The big problem is with the 35 per cent Israelis who make these settlements their permanent homes for religious or ideological factors. This group of settlers would be the hardest to deal with and could be the singular most formidable obstacle facing the efforts to find a sensible solution to Jewish settlements.

The first lesson to be drawn from the latest poll is that different groups of settlers have extremely different views on the peace process and their presence in the West Bank. Accordingly, different approaches should be used to evacuate them from the occupied Palestinian territories. Equally important is the need to make a distinction between Jewish settlers and the Israeli public opinion at large. At a time when only 25 per cent of the settlers can be viewed as supportive of the peace process, more than 57 per cent of the Israelis behind the green line are on the side of peace. Likewise, whereas 57 per cent of the settlers are generally against the peace process, especially with the Palestinians, only 28 per cent of the other Israelis are of the same opinion.

The Israeli government knows that no lasting solution to the Palestinian problem can be found unless the settlements are removed from the occupied territories. If it is concerned with achieving this peace, Israel should start working to dismantle the settlements. In dealing with the 47 per cent of settlers who opted for living in the West Bank for economic reasons, the Israeli government can offer incentives that would encourage this group to relocate in areas inside Israel proper.

The 35 per cent people living in the settlements for religious and ideological reasons pose a bigger problem. But even this group can be dealt with despite the political capital the Labour government will have to spend while getting (those settlers) to leave the West Bank. The Israeli government missed an important opportunity when it did not act against the Hebron settlers when a religious extremist shot dead over 30 Palestinians in the Ibrahim Mosque over a year ago. Israel will lose the bigger opportunity of achieving peace with the Palestinians if it allows a small group of Jewish extremists to control its policies. For the cause of peace, the Israeli government can afford to live with the noise this group of settlers will make. Peace, after all, is worth fighting for.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday welcomed the air raids on the Serbs in Bosnia saying the move represented the awakening of the world conscience to the atrocities that the Serbian forces have been committing against the Muslim people. This awakening, which came somewhat late, helps to reassert the credibility of the international community and its honour, besides rescuing the innocent civilians from the Serbian onslaught, said the paper. The Serbian forces have been committing all forms of atrocities: raping, demolishing Muslim homes and murdering Muslim men and women in defiance of the world community and in disregard to all principles and laws, said the paper.

A WRITER in Al Dustour Saturday expressed the view that the Middle East will face an escalation of tension in the wake of a threatening U.S. message to Damascus to bridge the activities of factions opposed to the peace process. Three weeks have elapsed since the Syrian leadership has received the U.S. message but Damascus has kept silent and offered no response, said Taher Al Adwan. He said that no one can expect Damascus to take any action against factions and resistance groups launching raids against Israel or the United States, simply because Washington has not lived up to its promises to pressure Israel into accepting a just settlement to the problem over the occupied Golan Heights.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Dollarisation of the economy

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

ONE OF the major functions of the monetary authorities is to ensure that adequate liquidity is available to finance the legitimate economic activities, preventing excess liquidity on the one hand which leads to higher inflation rate and shortage of liquidity, on the other hand, which invites economic recession. It is also important to avoid contradiction of policies by allowing one to neutralise the other.

With this in mind, we take note to the new circular issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to all licensed banks. The CBJ allowed commercial and investment banks to invest up to 50 per cent of their foreign exchange deposits in several instruments. It authorised the banks to make loans in foreign exchange, and to borrow foreign exchange from each other.

The aim of the Central Bank out of this bold step is to benefit from the foreign funds deposited with the Jordanian banks, which is close to \$3 billion, to finance domestic economic activities. It also aims to encourage the emergence of an interbank market in dollars.

I came to know of this CBJ course of action ahead of time, directly from the governor. I expressed some reservations, which the governor promised to look into. It seems that he was not convinced and accordingly went ahead in the implementation of this new policy. Having failed to convince the governor, I shall try my hand with the

public opinion.

My first problem with this programme being put forward by the Central Bank is that it implies that the Central Bank feels, rightly or wrongly, that the Jordanian economy is in need for more liquidity and credit facilities. If that is true, why should the Central Bank continue to suck the liquidity in Jordan dinars from the market, at a high cost, and at the expense of slashing its own profitability, and consequently sacrificing the revenue of the Treasury? And why does the Central Bank continue to press for higher interest rate on the JD, which makes credit more costly and difficult to obtain?

We also have a problem with encouraging Jordanian companies and investors to borrow in dollars, which will not only give rise to the unnecessary risk of exchange rate fluctuations, but will also make a big step on the road to the dollarisation of the Jordanian economy, a situation which will weaken or neutralise the instruments of the monetary policy in the country. With the progress of dollarisation, the Central Bank will gradually lose its power to influence the domestic market. The JD lends itself to the influence of the Central Bank, whether in availability, exchange rate, or interest rate, while the dollar is subject to international considerations which may or may not suit the circumstances of the domestic economy.

The Central Bank's circular did not distinguish between two categories of foreign exchange deposits with the Jordanian banks, which from now on can be invested locally to the extent of 50 per cent, or a maximum of \$1.5 billion. The first category represents deposits of the resident private sector, which we can understand the wisdom of investing part of them locally. The second category represents deposits of non-residents, including external banks, which must be readily available on maturity at all times.

Finally, the new step will allow banks to deviate from matching the maturities of their assets and liabilities. Banks will accept dollar deposits for short-term while lending the dollars for relatively longer terms. If such mismatching is acceptable in the local currency due to the availability of credit from the Central Bank as a lender of last resort, it may not be acceptable in foreign currencies where the Central Bank does not stand ready to lend banks in case of need.

To sum up, the Central Bank is unintentionally encouraging dollarisation. It is also following a tight credit policy in one area and an expansionary credit policy in another. Only one of the two policies can be appropriate under the same circumstances.

LETTERS

Drug abuse — a burning issue

To the Editor:

FIRST OF ALL, please allow me to salute the English Broadcasting Service at Radio Jordan for taking the courageous initiative in addressing the issue of "drug-use," "drug-abuse" and its related problems in Jordan through conducting a life debate on the Aug. 29. Hopefully, this is only the beginning of series of such initiatives, to follow in the short future.

The specialists, guests to the programme, provided the listeners with very useful information regarding the rising level of drug abusers, especially among our youth, who appear to be the main target. Though, some claim, that the drug problem in Jordan is under control, others disagree. Difficulties exist in defining the actual magnitude of the problem and the available official figures seem to be far from realistic, yet, one thing is for certain: The problem exists and it is spreading dangerously.

Not many years ago, terms such as *drug abuse*, *addiction* or *dependency* were considered alien, and simply did not exist in the vocabulary of the Jordanians. Ironically, some still choose to believe that this cannot be happening to our society due to their cultural perceptions that Jordan is a transit country, and its people are immune to the follies of the modern world. Well, it is time to realise that in fact our reality seems to be gloomier than we can possibly imagine. Jordan is not anymore the Utopia it was once believed to be and hoped to remain. Social change is inevitable, and so are the problems that go along hand in hand with progress and development.

To define and address the problem of drug abuse in Jordan broadly, with openness and sincerity, is a very significant step in the search for effective solutions. Choosing to bury the problem or deny its existence would only bring more harm and misery to those who suffer. It is of utter importance, therefore, to identify the problem at its early stages and seek the help of the professionals only.

The work of voluntary and charitable organisations is highly appreciated and valued. However, massive awareness campaigns will have limited effect if official governmental institutions are not directly involved. Those institutions will secure a continuous flow of financial support to activities aimed at dealing with drug related problems. Naturally, one rehabilitation centre and a society in the process of establishment will soon not be able to meet the needs of those who need professional help. If influential people are really concerned, they should sponsor and undertake the creation of many more rehabilitation centres, in various parts of the country, that provide adequate and free-of-charge professional care in compliance with the cultural norms of the community.

On the other hand, the Ministries of Education and Higher Education may closely coordinate their efforts with schools and universities in tailoring special anti-drug programmes to be conducted at various levels, and distribute the adequate literature free-of-charge to students, teachers and parents.

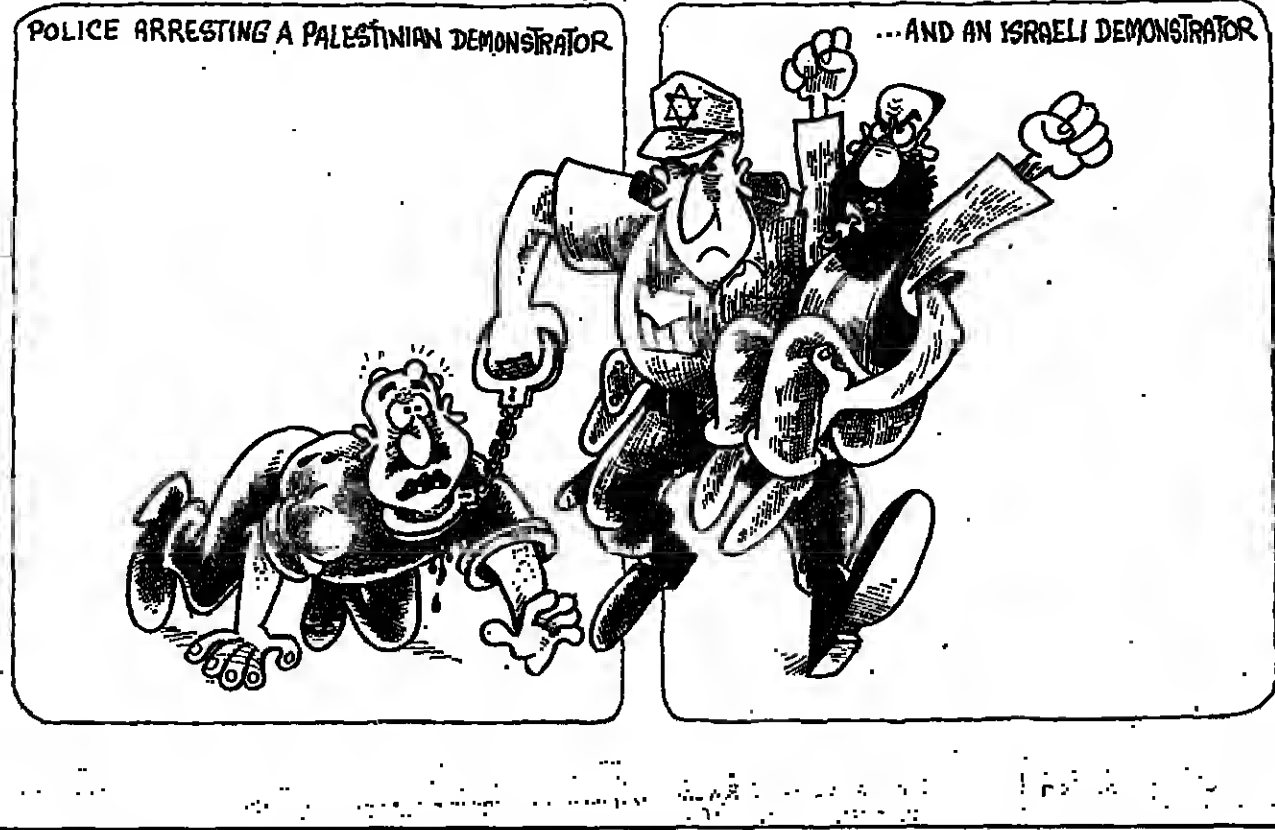
Last, but perhaps most important of all, is the family factor. Unfortunately, in our community, parents, who are capable and most effectively conduct parental guidance without assuming the role of dictators, are still a minority. Knowing how to successfully communicate with our own children is the prerequisite to the course of education. If teenagers seek the help of strangers, or refer to drugs as a solution to the problems of their life, something wrong must have happened in the parent-child relation. Should love, devotion and understanding be the keys to our children's minds and hearts, I guess it is worth trying.

The drug problem is a social issue. Therefore, dealing with it calls for the active participation of citizens from all walks of life. If we start now, the hope and desire for a brighter and safer future for future generations may be fulfilled.

Mrs. Rumiana M. Nuseibeh,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

M. KAHIL



Responsible Arab governorship and observance of human rights: An overview

By Ibrahim Hadithah Al Jazi and
La'ayy Minwer Al Rimawi

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNORSHIP entails complete tolerance of opposition and unconditional acceptance of the notion of political association. No matter how fierce internal opposition is, due process of law should prevail. For after all, the *raison d'être* of governments is to serve all their peoples and provide for the material comfort of the nation. Governments should not be tools subservient to the whims of political and social elites. Only legislated laws, together with independent parliamentary and judiciary bodies must be the ultimate arbiters between governments and opposition. Freedom is the norm and restriction is the exception. This means that political activities should only be deemed illegal once they turn into subversion. But even here, the legal interpretation of subversion should not be too loose to encompass whatever governments consider inconvenient. Instead it should be measured by criteria acceptable to the public at large and addible before a properly constituted court of law.

The enjoyment of certain fundamental, inalienable rights stems generally from political citizenship and belonging to the human race. However, human rights questions invariably bring about an essential tension between domestic claims to national sovereignty and extra-territorial demands of international accountability. But how a sovereign country treats its citizens is no longer confined to governments' exclusive domain. Contrary to countries' protestations (including many Arab countries), the observance of fundamental human rights is not a matter left entirely to the discretion of dictators. By adhering to the U.N. Charter, modern states have committed themselves to the principles enshrined in Articles 55 and 56 which, *inter alia*, prescribe universal respect for, and observance of human rights and

fundamental freedoms for all." In addition, the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other multilateral human rights conventions bolster a quickly metamorphosing international law on human rights practices. A country's scrupulousness in protecting citizens' human rights is evidently an indication of its civility. The more civilised a given country is, the more freedoms (positive or negative) its citizenry enjoys. Human rights in civilised countries are considered sacrosanct and deviation from upholding them is not tolerated — these rights include: The right to life, freedom of speech, expression and political association, freedom from torture and arbitrary arrest, protection from discrimination, etc. Sadly,

We should face this highly challenging world fully confident of our heritage. We undoubtedly should never put ourselves down, nor undermine our national achievements. But blaming Western post-colonialism and world conspiracy for self-inflicted incompetence is no longer a remedial solution.

when one contrasts Arab human rights records to Western ones, one is anguished at two conflicting realities. Providing domestic dignified existence to all citizens, legally enforced by courts of law, has characterised post-World War II governments in the West. Individuals' rights are fully enforced in the strictest sense. Free access to courts of law is constitutionally mandated and guaranteed. If their human rights are impinged upon, lay individuals can even sue heads of states, presidents and ex-presidents without fear of state vengeance or public retribution.

On the other hand, when looking at the Arab World one observes that emergency laws are rife and that there is scant protection for human rights. At least four Arab countries do not even

have constitutions. Of the remaining countries, three have totally or partially suspended constitutions. The independence of the judiciary is seriously compromised and many trials often fail to reach international standards of fairness. Torture of political prisoners and detainees, together with stringent press censorship has been the hallmark of the majority of Arab regimes. However, the most serious violation of human rights in the Arab World is against the right to life. In addition, recent reports issued by international human rights organisations have referred to disappearance cases in at least three Arab countries.

Arab abuses of human rights have, *ad nauseam*, been officially justified on maintaining "internal stability" and "national security."

When one contrasts Arab human rights records to Western ones, one is anguished at two conflicting realities. Providing domestic dignified existence to all citizens, legally enforced by courts of law, has characterised post-World War II governments in the West. Individuals' rights are fully enforced in the strictest sense. Free access to courts of law is constitutionally mandated and guaranteed. If their human rights are impinged upon, lay individuals can even sue heads of states, presidents and ex-presidents without fear of state vengeance or public retribution.

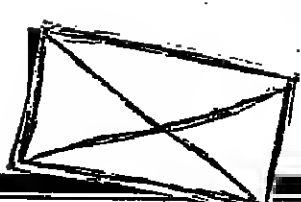
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Arab governments must work harder to control their security services and rely more on popular consensual support. It is not offensive to share political power. But regrettably, until today no Arab regime has seriously sought to structure legitimate democratic institutions through which power may be exercised. More deeply disconcerting, while Arab wealth is rapidly depleting, the future prospects could even look more bleak. The present post-colonial world is complex, very competitive and fast. Global ideological struggle has been rendered obsolete. Even supposedly omnipotent institutions like the CIA has now become a historical relic, searching for a newly defined political identity and a pertinent social role.

We should face this highly challenging world fully confident of our heritage. We undoubtedly should never put ourselves down, nor undermine our national achievements. But blaming Western post-colonialism and world conspiracy for self-inflicted incompetence is no longer a remedial solution. Maybe it is also our innate patriarchal arrogance, ostentatiousness and lust for pompous titles that has allowed our human rights records to deteriorate to such low levels. Perhaps it is also because we are peoples still enslaved to our false pride and highly inflated egos, encapsulated in our rhetoric and puerile desires autocritically to control and punish.

The writers are doctoral law scholars at the University of London. They contributed the above article to the Jordan Times



River soothes wounds of war in ex-rebel town

By Mark Heinrich
Reuters

KOSTAJNICA, Croatia — The river Una flows serenely through wooded countryside, soothing this war-battered town. But appearances are deceptive — the Una is a border and a front line.

Serb forces are, in the undergrowth 100 metres away on the opposite riverbank, watching Croats move back into Kostajnica in the wake of their army's long-awaited reconquest of separatist territory in Croatia.

Whatever anger and humiliation the retreating Serb rebels might feel across the Una, they have not taken pot-shots at Croats on the north bank who are savouring their return.

Croat soldiers say they struck an informal deal with the Serbs now on the Bosnian side of the Una — everyone has always known everyone else in Kostajnica — not to shoot at one another.

Croats and Serbs chat

loudly across the river and take swims in the Una without worrying about getting shot.

Or poisoned — the waters flow clear again like the old days since the recent shutdown of the paper mill upstream in the Bosnian Serb town of Prijedor.

"Without the politics of (outsiders), Serbs and Croats are the same people, they have traditionally got along fine here," said Stjepan Radic, Kostajnica's representative in the Croatian parliament, who lived in exile for four years.

All the same, the Croats took no chances. They blew up the local bridge over the Una to pre-empt revenge raids by more hostile Serbs from Prijedor who have taken positions along the river amid the locals in recent days.

Unfortunately, the dynamite charge shattered a few more buildings on the Croat side, including the baroque town hall.

It made little difference to the overall picture. With 80 per cent of its buildings in ruins and only a few others inhabited, Kostaj-

nica evokes the desolation of the former rebel Krajina region in the aftermath of its defeat.

Croatian troops vanquished the four-year-old Krajina Serb insurrection, the act that tore apart federal Yugoslavia, in an Aug. 4-7 blitz over U.N. ceasefire lines.

Around 150,000 Serbs fled to Serb-held Bosnia or Serbia, depopulating almost 20 per cent of Croatian soil at a stroke.

Ghost towns and farmsteads blot the landscape, some wrecked by recent fighting, others set ablaze later by vengeful Croats, still others are weed-ridden ruins from 1991 when Krajina separatists demolished Croat homes and expelled their inhabitants.

Kostajnica gained the dubious distinction as the first town in Yugoslavia to be bombed by its own air force.

The September 1991 air raid helped Krajina Serb guerrillas backed by the Serbian-led Yugoslav army capture Kostajnica after a five-day siege, a big blow in their uprising against

Croatia's secession from the Balkan Federation.

Located 110 km south of Zagreb, Kostajnica had 14,650 inhabitants in 1991 — two-thirds of them were Christian Orthodox Serbs and one-third Roman Catholic Croats. They lived off river trade or worked at the local textile and shoe factories.

Many spent lazy hours on the Una, swimming and fishing.

That idyll evaporated in 1991. Croats were evicted or fled across front lines. Three weeks ago the Croats turned the tables. Now only six Serbs remain, all of them elderly.

But there doesn't seem to be rabid anti-Serb feeling here. The few Serbs who have stayed they have been treated charitably by returning Croats who have handed out food and medicine.

Local Croats say they have nothing against Serbs who were not involved in expulsions and the dynamiting of homes and churches.

The Serbs avoid the centre of Kostajnica where Croatian reservists loiter ab-

out amid ransacked shops getting drunk on the local beer, but the mood is more cheery than aggressive.

Soldiers also queue up before the only shiny new object in town — pay telephone booths — the first sign of Kostajnica's "reintegration" in Croatia. Phone lines to Serbia have been cut.

Much of the rest of the old Austro-Hungarian market town is silent and empty. Packs of abandoned dogs roam the streets.

Andja Stijepovic, a Serb of about 60, spends her days with her dog and two cats in a fenced-off yard outside her crumbling bungalow, mourning her husband who succumbed to a bad heart a week after the Croatian army arrived.

"Three Croatian soldiers came to share a Rakija (fiery Balkan liquor) with my husband just before he died. They brought candles because we had no electricity, and food," she said, tears welling in her charcoal eyes.

Ljubisa Milic, 75, a retired Serb accountant who

has suffered a number of strokes, urged his two sons to stay but they "panicked" with everyone else on their block and fled across the Una.

His wife, Ljubica, 69, a retired teacher, believed her people were led astray by an ultra-nationalist minority.

"My husband and I listened to the radio of both sides. When (Croatian President Franjo) Tudjman offered innocent Serbs an amnesty, we believed him and stayed," she said.

Croats are trickling back in to reclaim homes, finding either gaping hulks overgrown with creepers or intact houses stripped of valuables and fouled by Serb chickens and pigs.

"The Una is what brought my wife and I back," said Vladimir Subaric, gloomily surveying his crumbling riverside home.

"But how many Croats will actually come back to stay is another matter. Who will want to raise their children here with the chemists (nationalist Serb) just across the water?"

Letter from the Nuba Mountains

Victims of a vicious war

By Julie Flint

HE STEPPED out from the back of the crowd, a middle-aged man with a curious, stooping demeanour, and whispered to our translator. "He would like to tell you his story," the translator said. It was late in the day and we had heard so many stories. I hesitated. Then I saw his arms curved like crab's claws, with livid scars running almost from shoulder to wrist.

His name was Ismail Bakhit and he was a farmer. Some weeks earlier, he had been on his way back from Tabanya market in the rebel-controlled Nuba Mountains when he felt the need to relieve himself. So he went behind a bush. There he was ambushed by government troops, tied hand and foot, then wrists to ankles, and left to die. When he was discovered five hours later, the veins of his arms had burst open. He was in hospital, or what passes for a hospital in a region where there are no doctors and almost no medicine, for 13 days.

Stories like this, so common in the Nuba Mountains, are all the more shocking for the contrast they make with a place that looks, at first acquaintance, like a little bit of paradise. The mountains are stunningly beautiful, craggy cones and granite massifs rising above a sea of bare clay plains. They are also a happy place, where there is a new pride in being Nuba and where tolerance and self-help are valued above all else.

All across the mountains, during our three weeks' stay, villagers were meeting to discuss ways of helping the victims of Khartoum's latest offensive. "Our people are very poor," a village leader told a meeting of Naboran county council. "If the enemy had not squeezed us into a very small area, one person could have contributed five sacks of sorghum. But productive areas have been burned. We are all sleeping in the forests. But even if we are poor we will give what we can — even if it is only one cup of sorghum."

In another part of the mountains, Muslims and Christians celebrated the feast of Id Al Adha together, dancing the night away after bearing rebel leader Yusuf Kuwa's assertion that "we are fighting for the freedom of every man, for every man to be free to worship as he wants." Late last year there was even a religious tolerance conference that ended with a vote to establish a Muslim institute and a Christian theological school.

Equally remarkable, and not just in a Sudanese context, are the good relations between soldiers and civilians. The credit for this must go to Kuwa, a former teacher who has established a civilian administration as well as skeletal health, education and judicial systems, and who not only pays lip-service to good behaviour but actively promotes it. Disturbed by reports that soldiers were looting to pay dowries, he

has convinced elders to lower the bride price from ten cows to two cows and two goats. In addition, each soldier must now cultivate a hillside of his own, the likelihood of looting. "We do not want the troops to force you in any way because they have guns," Kuwa told the Naboran assembly. "If you come to know of any of our troops doing this, let us know. We will know how to punish them."

No shades of Khartoum here. This tolerant, heterogeneous society is the antithesis of the extremist Khartoum policies. But scratch the surface just a little, and a darker picture emerges. Smiling faces conceal terrible suffering.

Ibrahim Kunda was washing in the river one evening when government soldiers ambushed him. They tied him, beat him and pulled out his fingernails. Ismail Abdullah Tutu had his foot "blown off by a grenade in a raid that killed his parents. He and his wife were captured and taken to Mendi garrison, where he was denied medical attention for 40 days. He escaped by crawling for one and a half days, dragging his septic, wormy stump. His wife, separated from him and raped by government soldiers, remained behind. Asked whether he would take her back if she too managed to flee, Bakhit responded simply: "Why not? Rape has become normal for us."

Normal, too, is the neglect of relief agencies which not only permit Khartoum to deny them access to rebel areas, but implement programmes acceptable to Khartoum everywhere in Sudan. The Nuba do not want to be crushed by the humanitarian juggernaut, but would appreciate a crumb or two. Continued neglect is tantamount to complicity, by default, in a genocidal war being waged against soft, civilian targets.

The next few months will be critical for the Nuba. It is the hungry season in the mountains, that difficult time between planting and harvest when food runs short even in good years. And this is not a good year, despite a good crop. Under cover of a ceasefire negotiated with the SPLA in southern Sudan, Khartoum recently launched a multi-fronted offensive that has destroyed grain stores and decimated animal stocks. There is clear evidence, apparent in the juxtaposition of burnt villages and unscathed SPLA bases, of a systematic policy of driving civilians into garrison towns in order to deprive the rebels of their human oxygen.

For the past two years, the SPLA has been on the defensive in the mountains, its fighters restricted to a handful of bulletins each. Now Kuwa has returned from two years' absence with ammunition he hopes will stifle the resistance of peoples who were of interest to the international community when they were merely picturesque, but not now that they are fighting for their lives. He faces very, very long odds.

Middle East International.

Key issues at U.N. women's conference in Beijing

Reuters

UNITED NATIONS — Following are some key issues — and anticipated disputes — at the Fourth World Conference on Women beginning in Beijing on Monday:

A 150-page draft document aims at removing obstacles to women's participation in private and public life providing a full and equal share in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making sharing power and responsibility with men in the home, the workplace and the community and reaffirming that human rights of women and girls are in integral part of universal human rights.

1. Poverty — agreed is that over one million people live in poverty, the great majority of whom are women. Governments should target public spending to promote equal access to resources. International lending institutions should include credit for women in their programmes and gauge the impact of their structural adjustment programmes.

The debate pits the industrial North against developing countries in South. In dispute are how any resources should be increased to help women in developing countries. Few new funds are forthcoming from the North. Also controversial is wording on arms ex-

penditures instead of social programmes.

2. Education — Governments should ensure universal access to primary education by the year 2025, eliminate disparities in access to higher education, eliminate female illiteracy by the year 2000, develop textbooks free of gender stereotypes.

Contested are references to sex education, equal higher education and calls for educational materials that promote equality for girls.

3. Health — Asserts women's rights to basic and quality health care, access to information and the need for special attention and investment in areas of critical concern to women.

In dispute are references to contraceptives, access to reproductive health information for adolescents and rights of individuals, couples to decide the number and spacing of their children. All references to abortion are contested. The document says abortion should not be promoted as a family planning method but that governments should deal with the health impact of unsafe abortions and reconsider laws that punish women who have an illegal abortion.

4. Violence and war — Agreed is that women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and

violence cuts across class and culture. Perpetrators should be investigated and punished, including government agents forced sterilisation, forced abortions, is opposed.

Unresolved is wording on how to declare rape in armed conflicts a war crime and a crime against humanity resources to heal victims of forced prostitution.

5. Politics, economics — Agreed is that women are absent from or poorly represented in political or economic decision-making bodies promotes equal pay for equal work and laws against discrimination based on sex. In dispute are equal rights for land, property ownership and inheritance strategies to eliminate child labour parental leave and equal benefits to women and men.

6. Human rights — Agreed is that although equal rights are affirmed in many international documents, they exist in name only. Many of the key points of past human rights instruments are reaffirmed. In dispute is the language on religious and cultural practices or whether human rights apply everywhere and to everyone. Also contentious are proposals that "equality" be substituted for "equity" on some provisions, particularly on property, inheritance and employment opportunities.

Returning Rwandans weary but happy to be home

NYAGATARE CAMP, Rwanda (R) — Refugees at one of the transit camps for Rwandans expelled by Zaire said Sunday they were happy to be home and their reception dispelled fears of revenge for last year's genocide.

"I am very happy, but I am also very weary. Happy that I am going home, tired that it is a long time since I left and I don't know what changed," Apolinar Mugambira, a peasant, told Reuters at the Nyagatara transit camp, near Cyangugu.

U.N. military observer Captain Victor Iakah said at Nyagatara no security problems or cases of Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) soldiers' detaining returnees had been reported since the expulsions.

But further north at Nkamira transit camp 36 men among 200 refugees who left Zaire voluntarily Friday were detained by the RPF soldiers and questioned about whether they were involved in the genocide.

The fate of the 36 was unknown but their detention seemed bound not to encourage refugees to join a voluntary repatriation which the United Nations is offering in place of the forced expulsions.

At a section of Nkamira camp separated by a fence, RPF soldiers guarded Saturday a group of men who had just crossed back from Zaire. The soldiers did not allow reporters to talk to them.

U.N. human rights obser-

vers said they were denied access to refugee men held at Nkamira. They said they had reports of men disappearing from Nkamira but refused to give details.

Mugambira arrived at Nyagatara after more than a year in neighbouring Zaire, whose campaign to expel tens of thousands of Rwandans refugees sent shockwaves through their camps.

The Rwandans moved in droves to Zaire after Tutsi rebels won a civil war against Hutus, whose militants had conducted the slaughter of up to a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates.

Zaire Thursday suspended the expulsions after 15,000 refugees were thrown out and allowed the U.N. refugee agency to resume voluntary repatriations, which have so far had a poor response. Zairean officials warn deportations will resume unless more of the one million Rwandan refugees leave.

Sitting on a U.N. bus that would take him home to his village, Mr. Mugambira said he no longer worried about rumours of life in the Hutu refugee camps in eastern Zaire that anyone who went home would be slaughtered in reprisal for the genocide.

"The RPF (Tutsi-dominated army) did not do anything bad. They did not terrorise me," Mr. Mugambira said. He added that the use of force and looting by Zairean soldiers bundling refugees out showed terrible indiscipline.

Another refugee on the

same bus said he refused to return to Rwanda earlier because of the rumours in the Zairean camps of revenge killings by the RPF for the genocide, which was carried out by Hutu mobs, former government troops and militiamen.

He said a lack of reliable information in the camps ensured many listened to rumours of reprisal killings put around by former government officials and refused to go back home.

Aid worker Greg Thurling of the International Rescue Committee said many stories about alleged atrocities by the RPF were lies peddled by people who had their own agenda.

"People expressing such thoughts do not want good for Rwanda," Mr. Thurling said, adding that every refugee who crossed from Zaire was a positive development for Rwanda's government.

Returnees queued at Nyagatara for food and waited to be registered while RPF soldiers strolled around asking to help. RPF officers said screening consisted only of taking away any firearms.

"You cannot arrest people as they come in at the border," said an RPF officer. "We have no evidence they did anything wrong. But when they go to their communities, then the villagers will satisfy themselves as to whether the men are innocent."

Another problem faced by the returnees is that many find Tutsis have moved into their abandoned homes.

NATO, U.N. debate more attacks

(Continued from page 1)

which is clearly what happened with Gen. Mladic coming to negotiate."

Bosnia, Croatia and Serb-led Yugoslavia, have agreed to meet for the preliminary peace talks in Geneva. If Bosnia refused to attend it would set back the peace process just as there seemed to be a breakthrough.

Mr. Holbrooke said he hoped the meeting would "change the momentum of war into a momentum of peace."

Mr. Holbrooke announced the talks after intensive negotiations with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and consultations with Croatian and Bosnian officials.

Still, Mr. Holbrooke called the progress made "very limited steps" and cautioned: "peace is still far away."

Meanwhile, NATO officials have made it clear the airstrikes could resume at any time.

While NATO suspended bombing runs, the U.N. rapid reaction force continued to target Serb weapons around Sarajevo with its heavy artillery, including an air defence system and a rocket site.

The Serbs on Saturday again claimed that civilian targets had been hit in NATO bombing raids, but made no mention of casualties.

"The destruction was exceptionally large — a lot of houses, postal delays, radio and TV transmitters electric

power and other facilities," in southeastern Bosnia, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported, citing Bosnian Serb military sources.

U.N. officials have not been able to assess damage caused by the NATO bombing.

NATO launched its largest offensive over two days after a Serb shell Monday killed 38 people in Sarajevo.

Mr. Holbrooke will go to Geneva on Sunday to meet with Islamic representatives. Islamic nations have been highly critical of the United States and European nations for letting the Muslims of Bosnia be besieged and killed by Serbs in over three years of warfare.

Members of the Islamic group on Bosnia are Malaysia, Senegal, Iran, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan and Egypt.

They represent the 52-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference, which has declared it will not abide by the arms embargo that kept Bosnia's Muslims at a military disadvantage against

the better-armed Serbs.

Mr. Holbrooke said he would return to Belgrade Sunday night to resume talks with Mr. Milosevic to prepare for the Geneva conference.

The European Union mediator on Bosnia, Carl Bildt of Sweden, told reporters the key principles on the Geneva agenda will be the territorial integrity of Bosnia and how to permit the Bosnian Serbs to be an "entity" with relations with Serbia and the Bosnian Muslims and Croats to be an "entity" with ties to Croatia.

The right of refugees to return to their homes will be another key principle, along with respect for human rights and mutual recognition of all states in former Yugoslavia, Mr. Bildt said, with Mr. Holbrooke standing at his side.

Mr. Holbrooke pointed to demonstrators carrying posters demanding the return of Bosnian refugees and said, "That's one of the fundamental negotiating goals. It will be tough."

Peres wants Arafat to boost control

(Continued from page 1)

states to expel Palestinians to the occupied West Bank to show up the failure of the PLO's self-rule deal with Israel.

In a speech to mark the 26th anniversary of his rise to power (see page 2), Col. Qadhafi said that since the self-rule authority says it now has its own "land and passport, let the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya return to their country."

"All the Arab countries should send back the Palestinians ... to create a new demographic fact with the return of five to seven million Palestinians," he said in the televised speech.

The deal with Israel on Palestinian autonomy was nothing but a "criminal plot," as would be proven by Israel's refusal to accept the Palestinians' return, Col. Qadhafi charged.

"If the Israelis prevent it, the world will see that it is a plot and an act of treason."

Referring to Libya's expulsion of Arab workers, notably from Sirte, Col. Qadhafi told a crowd of thousands in the eastern town that his country could "not open its borders unilaterally to Arab neighbours."

"Libyans are not entitled to go in their thousands to Tunisia or Egypt, to work and receive care, as Tunisians, Egyptians and Sudanese do in Libya."

for the defections, but diplomats remain uncertain about the connection between the events.

Uday's newspaper Babel said Waiban, a former interior minister, was shot accidentally at a celebration marking the anniversary of the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Iraq television showed him in hospital after opposition groups abroad reported he was dead.

Diplomats, citing what they termed a very reliable source, said the shooting occurred after someone at a party hosted by Waiban had laughed at a man dancing with women brought to the house, saying he looked like Uday.

Uday was told of the inci-

Saddam seizes son's property

(Continued from page 1)

dent and rushed to the party. Diplomats said in the account they found most credible, Uday then shot to death the man who had made fun of him.

Uday continued firing, wounding Waiban and killing five other people, including some of the dancing girls, before driving off with his guards, diplomats said.

"Waiban suffered serious injuries, he could be crippled. They will either have to get him out or bring in foreign specialists," said a diplomat.

Uday was briefly exiled after he beat to death President Saddam's food taster in 1988, in an incident that reportedly was rooted a family feud.

Save water Every drop counts!

Jordanian Science Week closes

(Continued from page 1)

conference, which was organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology, an exhibition was held of items of rocks, minerals and maps depicting their locations in Jordan.

The Crown Prince visited

the exhibition and presented prizes to committees that prepared for the "Science Week."

Present at the closing session with Prince Hassan was Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and senior officials.

Economy

Arab Gulf countries to discuss EU's plans for oil tax this month

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Ministers from six Arab Gulf oil producers will meet in Riyadh this month to discuss ties with the European Union (EU), including its plans for a new energy tax, the official UAE agency WAM reported Friday.

The ministers of oil, finance and foreign affairs from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will discuss relations with world economic blocs, especially the EU, at their Sept. 18 talks, it said.

"The ministers will focus on points of disagreement

with the EU, especially the proposed European energy tax," the agency said.

GCC states have held several meetings with their main economic partner the EU in a bid to persuade it to drop the plans charging they will depress oil demand and further hit income levels.

The GCC, a 14-year-old economic, political and defence alliance, has accused industrial states of seeking additional revenue from the carbon tax.

But the states have argued the tax is an environmental measure to curb carbon diox-

ide emissions, blamed for global warming.

The tax had been due to come into force in 1993 — set at \$3 per imported barrel of oil and reaching \$10 by 2000 — but was delayed by EU rifts, which led some members to introduce their own levies.

The proposals have soured relations between the GCC and the EU, which had an estimated two-way trade in 1994 of around \$35 billion.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — are also seeking

technology from the EU and other industrial powers to help attempts to diversify their oil-reliant economies.

Hundreds of officials and businessmen from the Gulf and the EU are due to meet in the Omani capital Muscat on Oct. 16 to discuss cooperation, including joint industrial projects in the region.

The GCC is the biggest oil bloc in the world, producing around one fifth of the global crude supplies and controlling nearly 45 per cent of the reserves.

Investors see opportunities in Lebanon

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Sawyer is used to the jokes that come up when he talks about investing in Lebanon, a country many Americans remember as a haven for suicide bombers and hijackers.

"They say, 'what are you going in there with flak jackets and helmets?'" laughs the PaineWebber broker. "People are naive."

But a growing number of American investors, like Mr. Sawyer, have started to see Lebanon beyond the terrorist image it acquired during its 15-year civil war from 1975 to 1990. Low tax rates, controlled inflation and a rapidly expanding economy have made this Middle Eastern nation an up-and-coming spot for overseas investment.

"Lebanon probably will be one of the fastest growing economies over the next 20 years," said Dr. Thomas Mattair of the Middle East Policy Council in Washington.

Much of this economic surge comes from a building boom. Infrastructure repairs have begun, as has the construction of apartment and office buildings. Hotels and cultural centres are planned.

The government has committed to spending \$10 billion to \$30 billion on reconstruction projects over the next 10 years.

Although foreign companies investing in Lebanon are encouraged by financial inducements, they are also likely to face considerable difficulties cutting through red tape as well as the lack of services, an abysmal telephone system, and sporadic electricity and water supplies.

Inflation, while well down from what it was when Bill-

Hariri took over in October 1992, is officially pegged at around 23 per cent but is probably much higher.

There is widespread labour unrest because of inflation, high prices and low wages. But with Mr. Hariri at the helm, many foreign businessmen see considerable commercial potential not only in reconstruction but using Lebanon as springboard for other Mideast markets.

Wendel Wendel, president of Starnet International Corp., a Longwood, Florida-based engineering firm, already has jumped into the growing construction market. He travels frequently to Lebanon to manage Starnet's \$1 million contract to rebuild the dome over a 4,000-seat arena.

"The opportunities in Lebanon are enormous," Mr. Wendel said. "It's a big pond over there and there's a lot to be eaten."

In addition, Lebanon is hoping to attract new investors with the September reopening of its stock exchange, which has been dormant for two decades because of the war.

"The population is eager to be a financial centre again, which is a role Beirut played throughout history," said Maher Beydoun, a Beirut businessman. "Great importance is attached to the Beirut stock exchange" because it will bring money into the country to finance the restoration plan.

Although the stock exchange will list only a handful of banks, hotels and cement companies in its first year, officials hope the market will lure capital from oil-rich Arab countries and from the West and Far East, Mr. Bey-

doun said.

Lebanese expatriates will be targeted for investment first. There are more than 10 million of them currently living outside the country, and their assets are estimated at more than \$40 billion, said Ziad Abdul Nour, president of the Arab Bankers Association of North America.

About two million expatriates live in the United States, where an intense campaign to lure all investors is taking place. In May, Wall Street bankers and analysts gathered in New York at a symposium on Lebanon capital markets.

Yet, attracting Lebanese-Americans may be difficult because "many are second- and third-generation Lebanese with only tenuous connections" to the country, said Deeb Keamy, director of research for the American Task Force of Lebanon.

Another obstacle also stands in the way. A U.S. State Department travel ban, implemented in 1985, prohibits U.S. citizens from travelling to Lebanon. There is no indication that the ban will be lifted until violence subsides in Beirut and in southern Lebanon, the last active Arab-Israeli war front.

The progress of peace also may have an effect on how much investors are willing to sink into Lebanese ventures. Many market players prefer stable political climates.

"I would like to wait a year or two to see... how it works before putting my money there," said Mr. Abdul Nour of the Arab Bankers Association. "It's not always smart to be the first."

Others, though, want to get into Lebanon early on, before it becomes a hot

emerging market.

"Biggest mistake would be to wait," said George Cody, executive director of the American Task Force for Lebanon. "Companies should open those channels ahead of time, so that when the ban is modified, they will be ready to go."

Arabs hopeful of resolving dispute with Basle

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are optimistic reforms in their banking sector will prompt the Basle Committee to drop them from its classification as high risk in lending, officials said Saturday.

The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has held two rounds of negotiations with the committee as part of periodic contacts between Basle and developing nations seeking to persuade it to ease lending restrictions on them.

"The talks have been fruitful and Basle officials have shown understanding and encouragement for reforms in our banking sector," an AMF official told AFP.

"We are optimistic several Arab states would be removed from the high-risk classification in the near future as they have made progress in strengthening their

financial sector and boosting the capital adequacy of their banks," he said.

Arab central bank governors are due to discuss the contacts with Basle at talks in Damascus on Sept. 9, the AMF said.

The Abu Dhabi-based fund, which acts as a secretariat for the central banks from the 22-member Arab League, said the meeting would also cover challenges facing Arab commercial banks due to growing competition from world blocs, and efforts to develop regional stock markets.

"The governors will discuss several banking issues, including a report on the second round of talks with the Basle Committee," it said in a statement.

Basle, which was created by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) seven years

ago to supervise its new worldwide banking regulations, has classified Arab states and other developing nations as high-risk in lending.

The move triggered anger in regional states as it will make it more difficult for them to get loans from industrial nations at a time when they badly need funds to finance reforms aimed at reviving their ailing economies.

The classification excluded Saudi Arabia on the grounds it was the fifth biggest creditor to the World Bank.

Several Arab states, mainly those in the oil-rich Gulf,

were prompted to launch reforms to overhaul their banking system in the hope Basle would remove them from the high-risk list.

The reforms include incentives for mergers, stronger supervision by central banks, and instructions for all banks to boost their capital to meet adequacy standards set by BIS for banks worldwide.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman have already reported higher adequacy, the ratio between shareholders' equity and assets. Both countries said their bank adequacy now exceeded the eight per cent

adequacy floor defined by BIS to ensure banks worldwide have enough funds to face financial crises.

The AMF, the main financial organisation in the region, is representing Arab governments at the negotiations with the Basle Committee, which comprises governors of central banks in major industrial countries.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Wright Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find out how you stand with others and do whatever is needed to improve relations. Try to understand the views of a loved one.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Make new acquaintances who can help to enrich your life in many ways. Attend a group meeting which is worthwhile to your progress.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Allow time to engage in your favourite hobby with congenial friends.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take part in new activities which are fine for you but first know all the facts concerning them. Think constructively.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your mate may have a change of attitude, so go along with new ideas for best results. Take it easy tonight and express happiness.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Show more interest in civic affairs and gain the respect of others. You can make this a most productive day for you on a new project.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Improve your environment so that it is more inspiring and brings you greater comfort. Strive for increased happiness with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Listen to what a good friend has to suggest for greater pleasure ahead. Take health treatments and improve your overall appearance.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get rid of whatever is causing disharmony at home and be happier in the future. Put your talents to work on a new assignment.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be sure to study a new project well before you put it into operation or there could be problems. Don't take any risks which could prove costly.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make long-range plans that could give you added income in the future. Come to a better understanding with family members.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You are likely to be upset about matters you can't change, so concentrate on whatever brings you inner peace and serenity in your life.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

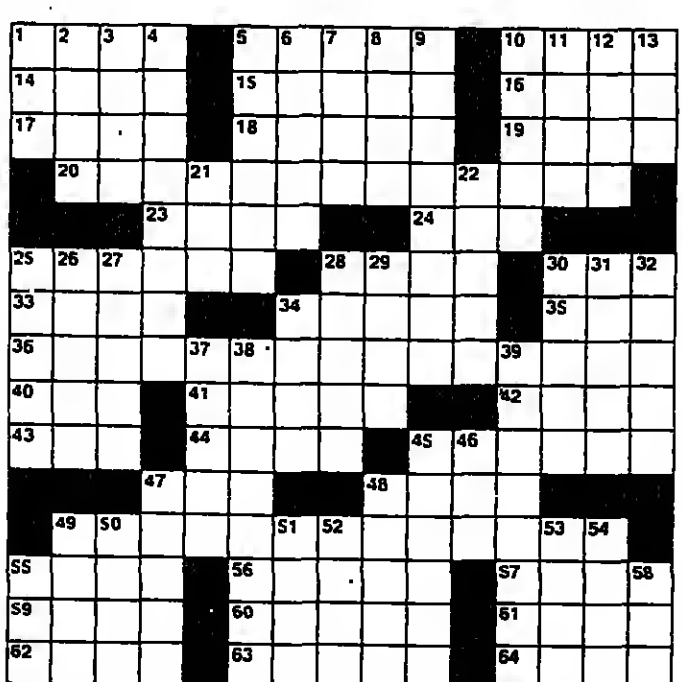


Valeria Cristina Duarte, 23, cuts sugar cane at the Sao Joao plantation in Campos, Brazil. Miss Duarte earns \$4 a day for cutting an area 150 metres long by five rows wide. According to the Pastoral Land Commission, a Catholic

sponsored non-profit group, reports of forced labour in Brazil reached 25,193 in 1994, up 4,883 from 1991 (AFP photo)

THE Daily Crossword by Al Becker

- ACROSS**
- Chums
 - Personnel
 - Reveal secrets
 - Landed
 - Four-bagger
 - Lasso
 - Singer Lane
 - Spanish month
 - Fullfill an order
 - Outmoded
 - Knitting word
 - Sea depths
 - meas
 - Bee place
 - Dray
 - Health watch
 - org
 - Called
 - Asian city
 - Cruces, NM
 - Great orchestra leaders?
 - Columbus school letters
 - Listens to
 - Indian
 - Catch
 - 500
 - Renter
 - Rocker Adam
 - Smell — (be suspicious)
 - Extra
 - Breath intake
 - Ancient Asia
 - Minor land
 - Chicken place
 - Pitcher
 - Herisher
 - Feat of daring
 - Tahoe, e.g.
 - Ordered
 - Brings under control
 - Ample, poetically
 - OWN
 - Moccasin
 - Well That Ends...
 - Stead
 - Curtailment
 - Spanish wine
 - Of a sound
 - Right on!



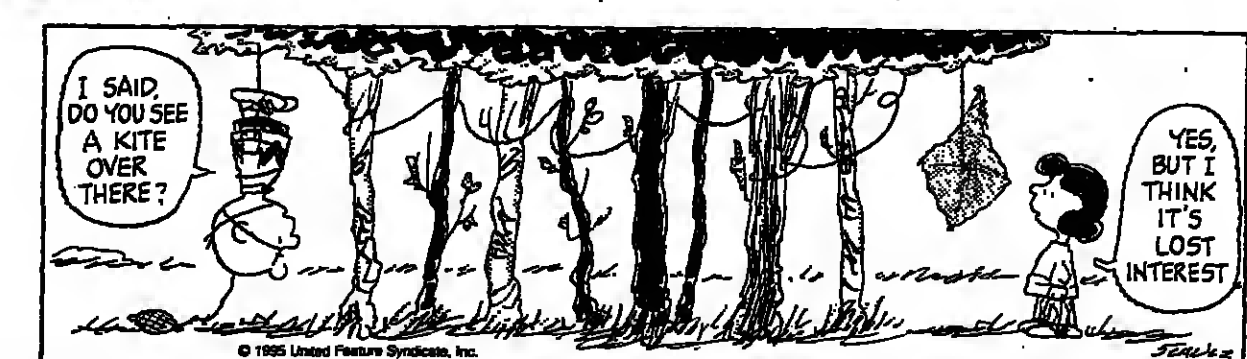
Yesterday's puzzle solved:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------|
| 8 Flowerless plant | SKID | FRAT | JOSIP |
| 9 Swishing sound | TOOD | RICO | UVULA |
| 10 Clear soup | ARON | EARN | NEVER |
| 11 Rounded part | TENNESSEE | ERASE | |
| 12 Copied | SATEEN | REAO | |
| 13 Ottoman Empire governor | QALAI | RILE | HOY |
| 21 Continent: abbr. | INURE | GEE | SWORE |
| 22 "Toys in the" | GANG | TOGA | INRED |
| 25 Fire crime | STEERS | ONME | |
| 26 Word on a VCR | NEED | VERSE | |
| 27 Data lead | SKITS | ROCKETEER | |
| 28 Sweetmeats | AERIE | OGLE | AGIO |
| 29 No ifs, — or but | GRANT | SPAD | PANS |
| 30 Plants of a region | ANNA | SUMO | ELEE |
| 31 Singer Bobby | | | |
| 32 Valuable quality | | | |
| 34 Did gardening | | | |
| 37 River to the North Sea | | | |
| 38 Middle-of-the-roader | | | |
| 39 Octopus arm | 48 Organic | 52 "E pluribus —" | |
| 45 Picks up tab | 49 Ms. Teasdale | 54 Ms. Ono | |
| 46 Corn unit | 50 Exploited | 55 Sailor | |
| 47 Jonathan | 51 Part of n.b. | 58 Church seat | |

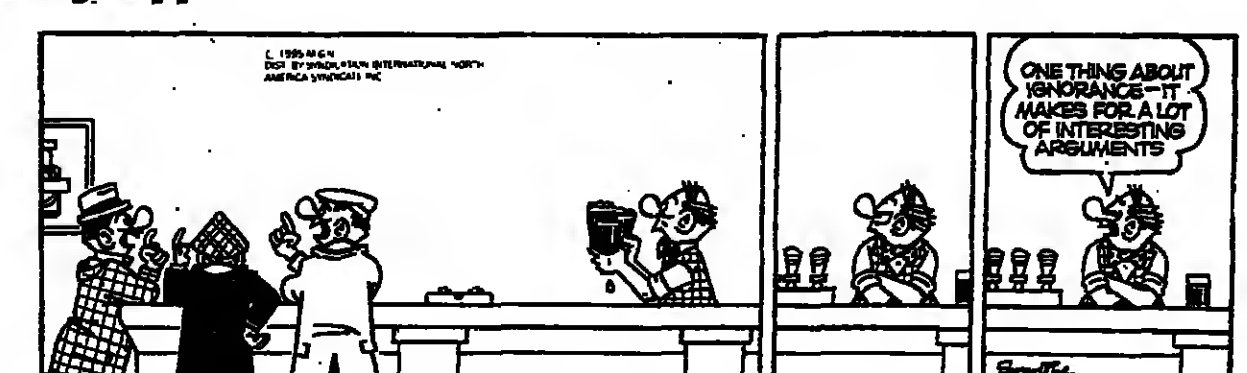
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Abbadi: 50 per cent of Amman area is not organised

DEVELOPING THE Ras Al Ain area of Amman will cost about JD 16 million, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi told the council members of the Municipality of Greater Amman (MoGA) during a tour on various projects MoGA is implementing in the capital. The mayor described the Ras Al Ain project as comprehensive and refined, noting that it would consist of an "Amman Hall," buildings for MoGA employees, a museum and stores to be used as commercial shops. Dr. Abbadi said that the Amman Hall would be completed in May 1996 at a cost of JD 2.5 million and that national institutions from the private and public sectors are expected to participate in implementing the whole project.

Dr. Abbadi pointed out that the main problem facing Amman was organisational due to the successive waves of emigration over the past 40 years. He said that 50 per cent of Amman's 520-square kilometre area was organised and that 40 per cent of this percentage was "unorganised land." He indicated that there was a high demand to buy lands in unorganised regions and that means increased services which in itself are costly. The mayor explained that MoGA's current policy was to assign Amman's eastern regions for classification D and public housing which is not expensive for small families.

The most ambitious project according to Mayor Abbadi was the green belt east of Amman to protect the city from desertification. Known as "Al Hussein National Park," an area of about 2,000 dunums in Wadi Al Qattar was planted with 150,000 trees and will be open for public within three years. The mayor and the members of the MoGA council toured the Ras Al Ain project and inspected the work at the Ministry of Interior Circle, Ain Ghazal area the crushers, the new vegetable market and the park in Wadi Al Qattar (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour).

A STUDY on building a tunnel under Jabal Al Qalaa is near completion and a tender for the project is expected to be announced before the end of this year. The first phase of the project is to build a tunnel from Wadi Al Haddadeh to the Court of Justice area while the second phase is to extend the tunnel under Jabal Al Weibdeh and then under Jabal Amman to Ras Al Ain in the third phase (Al Ra'i).

AFTER EXTENSIVE discussions, the general assembly of Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing Company approved the distribution of JD 300,000, or 15 per cent, in dividends. Shareholders demanded the distribution of dividends of 30 per cent especially that the company recorded JD 5.1 million net profit in 1994 compared to JD 3.2 million in 1993 when dividends were distributed at a rate of 30 per cent. Board Chairman Hisham Thebisan told the shareholders that the 15 per cent dividend rate was coordinated with the Central Bank which saw it as suitable in light of the company's ambitious projects. Beit Al Mal is now implementing new phases of the Yarmouk project and is managing the new hotel, opposite Jordan Inter-Continental, known as Carlton Hotel after transforming the old U.S. embassy building into a hotel. Mr. Thebisan said the board of directors was studying the possibility of raising the company's capital which now stands at JD 2 million. The company's total assets at the end of 1994 amounted to JD 17.6 million, 23 per cent higher than the figure of JD 14.3 million in 1993 (Al Ra'i).

Kuwait, Russia sign weapons offset memo

KUWAIT (R) — Russian state-owned arms trading company Rosvooruzheniye has agreed a legal framework for a multi-million dollar investment in plans under Kuwait's countertrade offset programme, a diplomat has said.

"A memorandum of agreement was signed between the company (Rosvooruzheniye) and the Kuwaiti finance ministry last month," Russian Embassy spokesman Nikita Eliseev told Reuters by telephone.

The agreement is designed to offset the August 1994 sale by the firm of BMP-3 armoured vehicles and a multi-launch rocket system to Kuwait for \$763 million.

The official did not elaborate on the value of the planned investment nor its type. Mr. Eliseev said the agreement was for millions of dollars but he did not know the exact figure.

Official Kuwaiti figures released earlier this year show that the Russian firm was required to reinvest \$228.9 million.

Kuwait offset rules require foreign companies selling goods and services worth more than one million dinars (\$3.3 million) to the Kuwaiti government to reinvest about a third of the contract value in Arab states, preferably Kuwait.

The rules were introduced after the 1991 Gulf war to try to broaden the narrow oil-dominated domestic investment base.

Oil companies prefer to keep stockpiles lean

LONDON (R) — Oil companies are becoming more complacent about the supply of crude oil for their refineries so there is less incentive to build up inventories.

Indeed, a compulsion to reduce them so as not to get left behind by more efficient competitors in this year of cost-cutting has enabled oil markets to shrug off the fact that U.S. oil inventories have fallen to their lowest levels in nearly two decades.

"Oil companies are cutting costs and are discovering new ways of operating with lower levels of inventories," says oil analyst Geoff Pyne of investment bank UBS in London.

"If companies are pessimistic (about the oil price) they will have an economic incentive, not to get caught out," adds Mr. Pyne, noting that the last time oil prices fell very quickly in the mid-1980s U.S. crude oil stocks hit their previous lows.

As stocks of crude oil and some key oil products sank lower and lower this summer, oil prices experienced only brief hiccups rather than the sudden surges that might have been seen in past years.

"What has happened in the last two to three months in the U.S. is quite exceptional," Mr. Pyne says. "If you asked people a year or so back, they'd say it was hard to imagine living with crude stocks as low as they are now."

The trend is not confined to the U.S. either, but is a long-term global phenomenon.

According to Faried Mohamedi, a consultant at Washington-based Petroleum Finance Co., "forward days cover" for global oil inventories — which adjusts for demand levels — has resumed the steady decline seen during the 1980s after levelling off following the 1990-1991 Gulf war.

"In 1995 we think it's going to be about 91 days cover," says Mr. Mohamedi, down from 98 days two years ago and more than 100 days prior to the Gulf war.

There are a number of factors at play, says Mr. Mohamedi, "but I think it's largely to do with the stabilising of the world political situation, especially in the Gulf" after the U.S. moved in to defend its oil supplies and tame Iraq's aggression.

And the outlook for oil supply gives support to the apparent complacency of inventory managers, analysts say.

A Brazilian oilworkers' strike earlier this year ate into oil company stocks but they found they could cope and don't appear to have built them back up, reckons Mr. Pyne.

Also, whereas the U.S. used to rely more heavily on long-haul supply from the Middle East for its crude imports, now much of it is supplied from short-haul suppliers, mostly Latin American, in the Atlantic basin, from where even more supplies are expected this year.

"In the next few months there is lots of crude coming on the market (from new fields) in the North Sea, Latin American and so on," says Mr. Mohamedi. "People say 'hey, if we need it it's just down the road.'"

Added to the enhanced security and plentiful supply is the increased use of oil derivatives to manage risk.

"The primary function of inventories is to provide insurance against a price spike and from that point of view the emergence of derivatives obviates the need for some inventories," says Raoul Leblanc, an analyst at Energy Security Analysts Inc. in Washington D.C.

Mr. Leblanc points out, the increasing number of oil companies using futures, options and other derivative securities to manage price risk prefer to be able to hedge any inventories that they build up.

SEATTLE (R) — Microsoft Corp. moved quickly Friday to resolve a problem that has prevented thousands of customers from installing its new Windows 95 operating system.

Microsoft set up a toll-free telephone line to provide replacement diskettes for customers who cannot install the system because of undetected viruses on their computers.

While Microsoft executives and industry analysts said there is nothing wrong with Windows 95 itself, the glitch highlights difficulties faced by the software giant as it sells one of the first truly mass-market computer products.

Rogers Weed, a group product manager for Microsoft, said he believed the virus problem has affected fewer than one per cent of people who have purchased the \$90 retail version of the Windows 95 upgrade, expected to be the biggest-selling product in industry history.

But Microsoft already has sold more than one million units of the new version of Windows in North America alone, meaning thousands of users have experienced the problem.

While the problem has accounted for only about five per cent of complaints so far, Microsoft technical support lines have been jammed to capacity with 20,000 calls a day, mostly from users having trouble with installation and setup, Mr. Weed said.

Microsoft said it would increase technical support staff and expand hours over the Labour Day weekend, when call volumes are expected to be heavy. Microsoft also urged Windows 95 users to seek help through sites it has established on the Internet and Commercial Online Services.

The installation glitch is caused by viruses with names such as Stoned, Monkey and Anti-Exe. Users whose systems are infected with one of the viruses get an error message when they insert the second of Windows 95's 13 diskettes. The diskette is ruined and must be replaced.

The viruses are not targeted at Windows 95 directly but attempt to install themselves on the programme's second diskette during a registration procedure. Normally such viruses would be detected only by anti-virus software, but Microsoft's use of high-density diskettes exposes the rogue programmes.

Microsoft said it recommends that users upgrading to Windows 95 back up important files and run virus-scanning software before beginning installation.

Alternatively users can flip up the "write-protect" tab on the second diskette to block the registration procedure.

Symantec Corp. said it is making available free virus-scanning software for users who are not protected by an anti-virus programme and who are upgrading to Windows 95.

Symantec chief executive Gordon Eubanks said he thought between two per cent and four per cent of people attempting to upgrade were failing because of the virus problem.

"When you sell hundreds of thousands of millions of units... that is an alarming number of viruses," Mr. Eubanks said.

Microsoft set up a special telephone number, 800-207-7766, for customers who need replacement diskettes. Customers who use the CD-ROM version of the product, which accounts for about 50 per cent of sales, do not encounter the problem.

Microsoft says viruses affecting Windows '95 users

Microsoft says viruses are affecting Windows '95 users. The company has set up a toll-free telephone line to provide replacement diskettes for customers who cannot install the system because of undetected viruses on their computers.

While Microsoft executives and industry analysts said there is nothing wrong with Windows 95 itself, the glitch highlights difficulties faced by the software giant as it sells one of the first truly mass-market computer products.

Rogers Weed, a group product manager for Microsoft, said he believed the virus problem has affected fewer than one per cent of people who have purchased the \$90 retail version of the Windows 95 upgrade, expected to be the biggest-selling product in industry history.

But Microsoft already has sold more than one million units of the new version of Windows in North America alone, meaning thousands of users have experienced the problem.

While the problem has accounted for only about five per cent of complaints so far, Microsoft technical support lines have been jammed to capacity with 20,000 calls a day, mostly from users having trouble with installation and setup, Mr. Weed said.

Microsoft said it would increase technical support staff and expand hours over the Labour Day weekend, when call volumes are expected to be heavy. Microsoft also urged Windows 95 users to seek help through sites it has established on the Internet and Commercial Online Services.

The installation glitch is caused by viruses with names such as Stoned, Monkey and Anti-Exe. Users whose systems are infected with one of the viruses get an error message when they insert the second of Windows 95's 13 diskettes. The diskette is ruined and must be replaced.

The viruses are not targeted at Windows 95 directly but attempt to install themselves on the programme's second diskette during a registration procedure. Normally such viruses would be detected only by anti-virus software, but Microsoft's use of high-density diskettes exposes the rogue programmes.

Microsoft said it recommends that users upgrading to Windows 95 back up important files and run virus-scanning software before beginning installation.

Alternatively users can flip up the "write-protect" tab on the second diskette to block the registration procedure.

Symantec Corp. said it is making available free virus-scanning software for users who are not protected by an anti-virus programme and who are upgrading to Windows 95.

Symantec chief executive Gordon Eubanks said he thought between two per cent and four per cent of people attempting to upgrade were failing because of the virus problem.

"When you sell hundreds of thousands of millions of units... that is an alarming number of viruses," Mr. Eubanks said.

Microsoft set up a special telephone number, 800-207-7766, for customers who need replacement diskettes. Customers who use the CD-ROM version of the product, which accounts for about 50 per cent of sales, do not encounter the problem.

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Christie loses out as the gold is shared out

BERLIN (AFP) — Linford Christie was the heavyweight loser at the climax of the IAAF's "Golden Four" spectacular here on Friday as \$250,000 of high-grade bullion was dishied out.

Michael Johnson, Gwen Torrence, Sonia O'Sullivan and Natalya Shikolenko went through the motions as they shared out the 20kg of gold for winning all four of the top IAAF meetings this season.

Christie, however — who had won at Oslo, Zurich and Brussels — crashed to the man who stole his 100m world title — Donovan Bailey.

The British Olympic champion, hampered by hamstring trouble in

Gothenburg, clocked 10.10sec, the same time as the Canadian, but lost out in a photo-finish.

Bailey, who lost his last three races to Christie but only after his training was hit by two stays in hospital for haemorrhoid treatment, said the two were "good friends" but added: "I don't cry over injury or if I'm sick. Did I ruin Linford's day? What they should have done is given me what he was supposed to have got."

The key to his win was a mid-race pick-up that Christie could not match despite closing in the final metres.

The performance of the night, however, was not about gold. It came via the

legs of Haile Gebrselassie, the Ethiopian winning a scintillating 5,000m duel with Moses Kiptanui in the second-fastest time in history.

Both men came here after winning world titles and breaking world records last month but in the end Gebreselassie proved the stronger with a decisive burst over the final 600m.

The field had looked on world record pace early on but in the end it was left to the Ethiopian to surge clear to win the 12min 53.19sec, almost nine seconds off his own world mark clocked in Zurich.

Gebreselassie, the 10,000m gold medalist, now holds three of the five best times ever run over the

distance. Kiptanui, the 3,000m steeplechase world champion in Gothenburg, ran 13:00.90.

The American, who like Christie lost a title in Sweden in unfortunate circumstances when she seemed to have added the 200m title to the shorter sprint only to be disqualified, made no mistake this time with a 21.98sec victory.

The win was a mere formality after Merlene Ottey of Jamaica, who benefited from her faulty footwork during the world championships, pulled up with an injury with only half the race run. Irina Privalova of Russia was second in 22.59.

But Torrence added ruefully: "You know, I still think about Gothenburg."

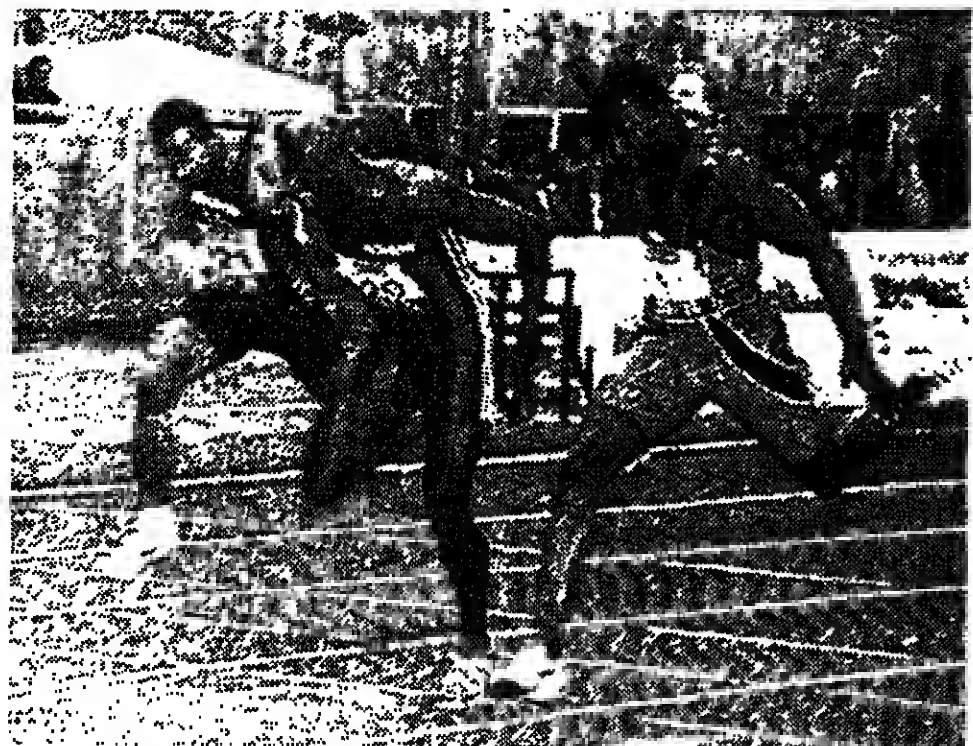
Johnson was just as comfortable in winning in the 400m ahead of American compatriot Derek Mills in 44.56sec while Shikolenko, benefitting from the absence of Norwegian Trine Hattestad, who is expecting a baby, won the women's javelin with a first-throw of 67.72m.

They all seemed to be happy with their golden reward, as did O'Sullivan, the Irish athlete destroying world record holder and 10,000m world number one Fernanda Ribeiro over the final 400m of the 5,000m.

O'Sullivan, who beat Ribeiro over the same distance in Gothenburg, produced a last lap of 62sec and a 29 sec final 200m burst to destroy her main rival as she clocked 14:41.40, the third best time in history.

Barely panting, she said: "It's exciting and kind of fun."

The only real shock of the evening, which also featured predictable wins for



Canadian Donovan Bailey (centre) wins the finish of the 100 metres final against British Linford Christie (right) and Namibian Frank Fredericks (left) at the ISTAF Grand Prix in Berlin on Sept. 1. Bailey won in 10.10 sec (Reuters photo)



Haile Gebrselassie from Ethiopia celebrates when he crosses the finish line to win the 5,000 metre race at the ISTAF Grand Prix in Berlin Sept. 1. Gebrselassie won in 12:53.19 minutes (Reuters photo)

the like of world champions Nouredine Morceli (3:48.26 in the mile), Jan Zelezny (91.30m in the javelin) and Jonathan Edwards (17.35m in the triple jump), as well as Maria Mutola in the women's 800m, came when Okkert Brits got the better of five-times world champion Sergey Bubka in the pole vault.

The South African vaulted 5.95m to the Ukrainian's 5.90.

Perhaps the more unsettling moment of the event came when Grit Breuer, just back from a three-year drugs ban after being barred alongside Kati in Krabbe for using Clebuterol, came second in the women's 400m to Australia's Commonwealth Games champion Cathy Freeman.

Breuer received one of the biggest cheers of the night from the 40,000 crowd at the Olympic stadium, a sad reflection on over-zealous patriotism in a venue built by Adolf Hitler, to stage the 1936 Olympics.

Javier Sotomayor of Cuba ended the event by crashing to defeat. He lost on countback after both he and Jaroslav Kotewicz of Poland had cleared 2.30m. Sotomayor's last two attempts shaved the bar.

Troy Kemp of the Bahamas, who edged out the Cuban in the world championships, came fifth with 2.25 in difficult and damp conditions.

Sacchi, Vialli make peace

FLORENCE (R) — Italy coach Arrigo Sacchi said on Friday that striker Gianluca Vialli, banished from the national squad since 1992, would be recalled soon.

Sacchi, who has suggested Vialli's eccentric personality disrupted the cohesion of his team, said the Juventus star would have been called up for Wednesday's European Group Four qualifier against Slovenia had he not been injured.

"Now we will have to wait for the (October 8) match against Croatia," Sacchi told reporters.

The conditions now exist for him to be recalled. The time is right. There has been a clarification which has involved pretty much everybody. I spoke to him (Vialli) and it was a chat between two people who respect each other," he said.

The shaven-headed Vialli, 30, was a key player in helping Juventus wrestling the Serie A title from Milan last season and the media has long put pressure on Sacchi to recall the on-form striker. He last played for Italy in December 1992.

Knicks, Heat settle Riley tampering charge

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Knicks and Miami Heat have settled the tampering charges brought by the Knicks over their former coach Pat Riley, the NBA announced on Friday.

The agreement calls for the Knicks to receive \$1 million and a 1996 first-round draft choice previously held by the Atlanta Hawks, unless the pick is a top-five selection, in which case the Knicks would receive a 1997 first-round pick.

In return, the Knicks, who had a year left on their contract with Riley, withdrew their tampering complaint against the Heat, allowing the club to enter into an employment agreement with him.

The draft choice was acquired by the Heat from Atlanta in a trade under which Miami was to receive the pick in 1996 unless it was a top-five selection.

Riley resigned as head coach of the Knicks on June 15, and the Knicks claim that the Heat and Riley had illegal contact while he was still under contract with them.

NBA commissioner David Stern was scheduled to rule Friday on the tampering charges if no agreement was reached. Stern urged both sides to work out an agreement.

"I am pleased that the par-

ties have been able to resolve the matter between themselves, and I believe this agreement they have reached is a constructive one that will serve the long-term best interests of both teams and their fans," Stern said in a statement.

The Heat did not immediately announce the hiring of Riley.

"We are currently negotiating with Pat and will refrain from further comment until a final agreement is reached," the Heat said in a statement.

The New York Times reported last week that a 14-point unsigned memo outlining Riley's contract demands was sent to Heat owner Mickey Arison dated June 5, 10 days before Riley resigned as coach of the Knicks.

The memo was discussed at an August 4 hearing in New York on the tampering charges filed by the Knicks against the Heat.

The contract proposal reportedly included a 20 per cent ownership interest in the club, \$15 million in salary over five years and per diem expenses of \$300 per day.

Riley left the Knicks with one year left on his five-year contract. Miami officials were quoted publicly on several occasions as saying they were interested in Riley as a head coach.

Portugal seek finals spot

OPORTO, Portugal (R) — Portugal would virtually seal a place in next year's European Soccer Championships with a home victory over Northern Ireland on Sunday.

The Portuguese, who hold a comfortable lead at the top of qualifying group six, will see able to field a full-strength team with Juventus and Barcelona midfielders Paulo Sousa and Luis Figo back in the squad after injury.

Both players were absent when the group leaders put seven goals past lowly Liechtenstein last month to tighten their hold on the qualifying group.

The Northern Irish on the other hand will have to rely on a makeshift defence after Bolton's Gerry Taggart, Darren Patterson of Luton and Neil Masters, who plays for Wolverhampton, were forced to withdraw after suffering injuries in English league matches last weekend.

A win on Sunday would give Portugal 21 points from eight matches and ensure they finished at least second in the group whatever happened in their final two games away to Austria and second-placed Ireland.

Only the top team in each of the eight qualifying groups is guaranteed a place in the finals with the best six runners up joining them in England next June.

Marsh leaves Galatasaray after 5 weeks

ISTANBUL (R) — Former Liverpool and Coventry City midfielder Mike Marsh has left Turkish first division club Galatasaray after serving only five weeks of a two year contract, club officials said on Saturday.

Marsh, whose family apparently found it hard to settle in Turkey, is due to join English first division club Southampton United.

On Friday Galatasaray, managed by former Scotland international Graeme Souness, signed U.S. international goalkeeper Brad Friedel from Danish club Brondby.

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Pierce eliminated; Sampras, Graf march on

NEW YORK (AFP) — This time, Pete Sampras would not be denied.

The world number two avenged his fourth-round ouster from last year's U.S. Open, beating Peru's Jaime Yzaga 6-1, 6-4, 6-3 here Friday in a second-round match at the 9.86 million-dollar Grand Slam event.

Sampras was the reigning champion last year but was slowed by injuries when Yzaga dispatched him 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4), 7-5, in the fourth round.

"This was a match I was looking forward to when I saw the draw to get some revenge," Sampras said. "What happened last year didn't sit well with me."

"I certainly thought about it. You never forget a loss like that, especially at a major."

This year, Sampras took his revenge in 92 minutes, swatting 16 aces past 69th-ranked Yzaga and dominating from the start.

"I set the tone early. I was ready to go," Sampras said. "I was really pumped up. The adrenaline was kicking in."

Sampras rolled through the first set in 21 minutes, broke Yzaga in the ninth game of the second set and held to finish it. He then broke Yzaga's final two serves to close the match.

"He didn't make any mistakes," Yzaga said. "I expected to be a little better. I'm disappointed I played like that. But he didn't give me any chances. He served great. I always trailed. He kept me out of my rhythm."

Last year, Sampras had played only twice between Wimbledon and the Open and was far from peak form. When Yzaga grabbed a 5-2 edge in the fifth set, Sampras rallied but could not complete the comeback.

"There was no relation to last year," Yzaga said. "It was something I will remember all my life, beating the world's number one player at the U.S. Open. But it's over. You need to put it out of your mind and keep playing to improve."

Yzaga had also beaten Sampras here in a first-round five-setter in 1988, taking the final three sets to spoil his rival's Grand Slam debut at age 17.

Sampras next faces Australia's Mark Philippoussis, who eliminated Marc Goellner of Germany 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 7-5, to join compatriots Scott Draper, Michael Tebbutt, Todd Woodbridge and Jason Stoltenberg in the third round.

"All it is confidence with the Australian players," Philippoussis said. "The good thing about Australians is we're very close on and off the court."

Saturday's schedule pits world number one Andre Agassi against Stefan Edberg for the first time in a Grand Slam event while Monica Seles continues her comeback against Japan's Yone Kamio.



Martina Hingis of Switzerland celebrates her U.S. Open victory over Patricia Hy-Boulais of Canada (AFP photo)

Mary Pierce and Thomas Enqvist became the biggest upset victims so far on a Friday when most favourites struggled, even though women's top seed Steffi Graf reached the round of 16 easily.

Graf showed no distraction over her father's tax evasion imprisonment, even managing a smile during a 6-3, 6-3 rout of number 20 Nathalie Tauziat.

"I was a little more relaxed as the match went on. I made a couple of points and it made me smile," Graf said. She next faces 16th-ranked Chanda Rubin, an American who would have been seeded had Seles not returned (see separate story).

Sixth seed Pierce lost 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) to 21st-ranked American Amy Frazier, who meets 12th seed Natasha Zvereva in round four.

"Nothing worked," Pierce said. "She played really well and gave me no chance. I tried to slow her down in the second set but she wouldn't let me."

"Part of my plan was to move her around a lot because when she is set she hits the ball so hard and deep," Frazier said. "I had a solid game and served well. I was trying not to think about the score."

Zimbabwe's Byron Black ousted Enqvist 6-4, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, in his first victory over a top-10 foe, advancing to a third-round matchup with another Swede, 26th-ranked Jonas Bjorkman.

French Open finalists Thomas Muster and Michael Chang rallied from first set losses to reach the third round. Third seed Muster beat Australia's Todd Woodbridge 4-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4, while Chang ousted Italy's Stefano Pescosolido 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Chang, seeking his first Slam title since the 1989 French Open, lost his two prior meetings with Pescosolido, both in 1991.

"He was playing some great tennis in the first set," Chang said. "I was not doing a lot to hurt him. I was very fortunate."

Muster, who beat Chang in the French final, lost both prior hardcourt tests against

Woodforde, whom he had bested twice on clay.

Germany's Michael Stich, the 1994 Open runner-up, ousted Argentina's Hernan Gumy 6-3, 1-6, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

"I went to playing defensively in the second and fourth sets and let him back into the match," Stich said. "In the fifth set, I tried to be more aggressive and it worked. I wasn't happy with my performance."

Swiss 14-year-old Martina Hingis assured the best Slam result of her debut season by ousting Canada's Patricia Hy-Boulais 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. She next meets ninth seed Gabriela Sabatini and could face reigning champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in a quarter-final.

U.S. Open notebook

★ The Arthur Ashe Endowment for the defeat of AIDS booth has been shifted off the U.S. Open grounds to a spot located on the boardwalk between Shea Stadium and the National Tennis Centre.

For the past three years, the booth was located within the grounds of the U.S. Open where spectators would constantly walk past.

This year, the booth was only on-site the Sunday before the U.S. Open began when the national tennis centre staged the Arthur Ashe Tennis Challenge, a pro-celebrity event held annually since 1992.

The new booth location has severely cut into the exposure and revenue the Arthur Ashe Endowment for the defeat of AIDS is receiving, according to Emmanuelle Chiche, a fund-raising consultant for the endowment.

"We don't understand the reason why we've been moved," Chiche said. "We used to be treated nicely by the USTA. It will be surprising if we end up raising half the money we did last year. We get the people coming from the subway walking by, but the high-income people coming in cars, who are more inclined to give a charitable donation, aren't coming past."

Rubin says she can beat Graf at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Rising American star Chanda Rubin is not bashful about rating her chances against top seed Steffi Graf at the U.S. Open.

"I definitely think I can win," said Rubin after beating Gigi Fernandez Friday to set up a marquee fourth-round showdown with the German.

Fernandez, a 7-6, 6-1 loser, also likes the 19-year-old Rubin's chances against the reigning Wimbledon and French Open champion.

"You need power to beat Steffi and she has got the power," Fernandez said. "If she attacks Steffi's backhand and the forehand is in control, I think she has a very good chance."

The timing might be right for an upset.

The Lafayette, Louisiana native should be the fan favourite, and the top-seeded Graf has been distracted by the arrest of her father Peter in Germany for tax evasion and has been slowed by a chronic bad back.

Rubin is more concerned about herself than about Graf.

"I'm not really thinking about what she is out doing well," she said of Graf, who beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 6-3 to advance. "I'm just going out and do what I've been doing well."

Rubin has been doing a lot of things well recently.

Since reaching the French Open quarter-finals, Rubin has compiled a 16-5 singles record. This summer Rubin has been runner-up twice and won an exhibition event in



Chanda Rubin hits a forehand return to her opponent, 15th seed Helena Sukova, during Rubin's 6-1, 6-3 upset victory at the U.S. Open in New York (Reuters photo)

Mahwah, New Jersey last week.

"She has really improved in the last few months," Graf said of the American teen she last played more than two years ago, losing just three games.

"That has got to give you a lot of confidence and help you believe that it is never

over until you shake hands," said Fernandez. "Right now she is riding on that wave and it will probably last for a little longer."

Graf sees few weaknesses in Rubin's all-court game.

"She is a talented player," Graf said. "She has a great

serve and she can really go for her shots."

Rubin has in mind a simple strategy to produce the upset.

"I'm going to go out and play aggressive and do all the things that I've been doing," she said. "Get a lot of balls in and come in when I can."

"I think it will be a battle."

Japan tops University Games medals table

FUKUOKA, Japan (AP) — Japan regained the World University Games gold medal lead by winning the soccer final Saturday after the Americans had gone ahead briefly by trouncing the Japanese in basketball.

Japan and Hungary were the rainy day's only double gold medal winners.

For Japan, Yasuyuki Watanabe delighted his hometown spectators by taking the lead on the last lap and winning the men's 10,000-metre run. Then the Japanese shot out arch rival South Korea 2-0 for the soccer gold.

That gave Japan a total of 22 golds to 21 for the Americans, who have led off and on over the last few days. The Americans still were ahead 63 to 61 in total medals, and missed one to decathlon by one point when Aric Long fell from the lead to fourth by

being about one-tenth of a second too slow in the last event, a 1,500-metre run.

The United States won its fourth consecutive men's basketball gold medal by drubbing Japan 141-81 in the final. Canada won the bronze, 80-72 over the Czech Republic.

China and Russia each had 13 golds after each won a track and field gold Saturday.

South Korea had 10 after beating Spain 13-15, 17-15, 9-15, 15-7, 15-13 in a 2½-hour men's volleyball final. Italy beat Israel for the bronze.

Hungary boosted its gold total to eight as Dezso Szabo claimed the title of top all-around athlete by winning the decathlon and Hungary's men's foil team edged Ukraine 45-44 for a fencing gold.

Kenya and Madagascar each won their first medals.

Kenya's Daniel Muturi won the men's 3,000-metre steeplechase, and Madagascar's Nicole Ramalalanirina edged Ukraine's Elena Ovcharova by .05 second in the women's 100-metre hurdles.

Mexico and Italy won the day's two walking races.

In soccer, Japan's Shigeyoshi Mochizuki scored after just 90 seconds and Kiyotaka Ishimaru sealed the victory with a goal in the 8th minute of the second half.

Russia beat Ukraine 3-1 for the bronze.

Watanabe won the 10,000 metres in 28 minutes, 47.78 seconds - 7.24 seconds ahead of Kenya's Stephen Mayaka.

Mexico's Gabino Apolonio was another 12.93 behind.

But Kenya's Muturi, who trains in Japan, took the steeplechase in 8:27.03, falling briefly behind Canada's Joel Bourgeois toward the end but then kicking ahead again.

Bourgeois was second in 8:28.44 and Morocco's Brahim Boulami third in 8:35.53.

In the women's hurdles, Nigeria's Taiwo Aladeola took the early lead but caught her toe on the seventh hurdle and crashed into the eighth.

Ramalalanirina won in 13.02, with Ovcharova second in 13.07.

Szabo won the decathlon with 8,051 points. Sebastian Chmara of Poland was second with 8,014, Dmitri Soukhomazov of Belarus third with 7,971 and Long fourth with 7,970.

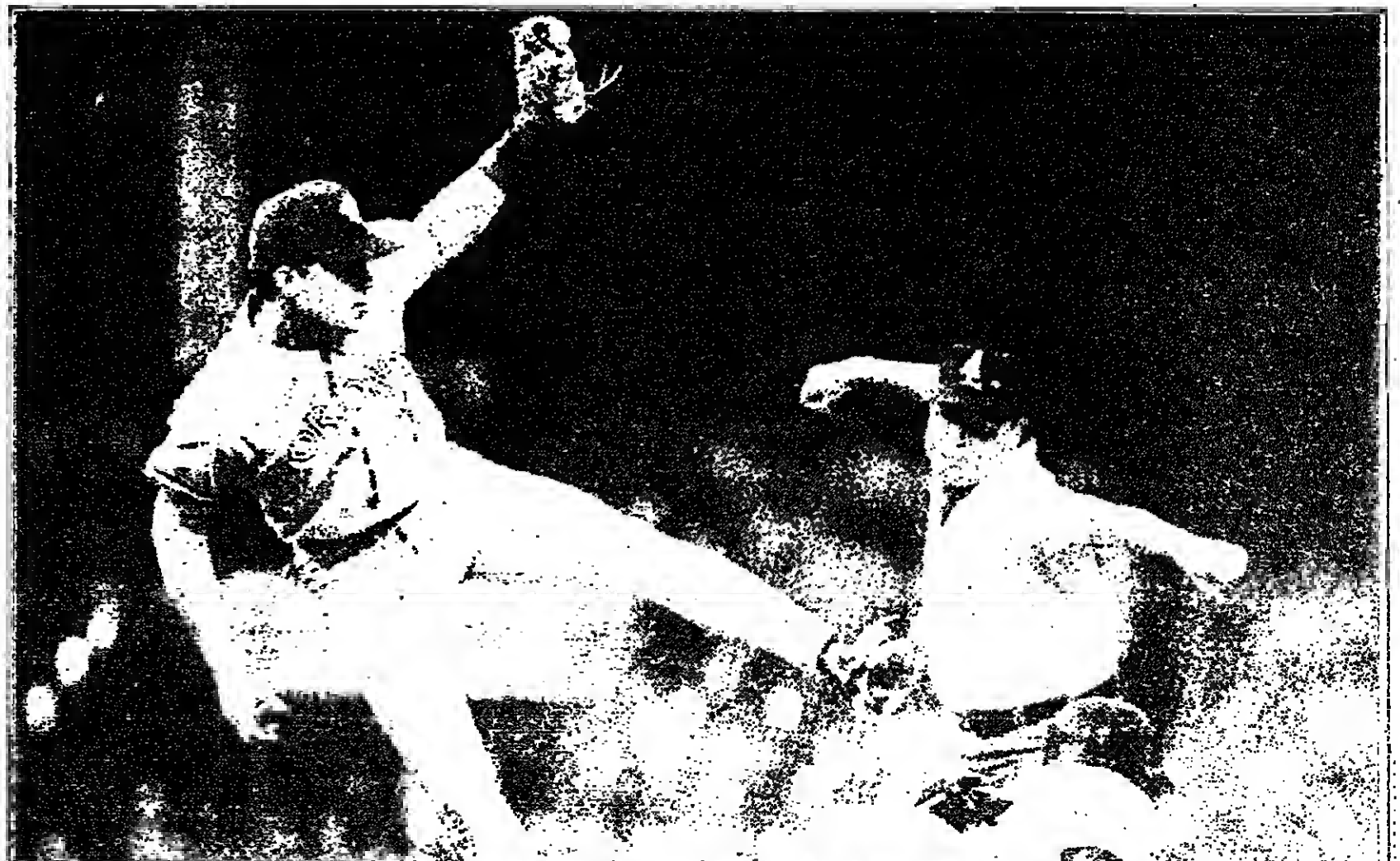
China finished 1-2 in the women's shot put. Wu Xian-chun won at 18.31 metres (60 feet, 1 inch), Cheng Xiaoyan was second at 17.95 (58 10/16), and Corrie De Bruin of the Netherlands took the bronze at 17.82 (58-5 3/4).

Russia's Viktoriya Fedorova and Kazakhstan's Svetlana Zalevskaya both cleared 1.92 metres (6-3 1/2) in the women's high jump, but Fedorova needed only two tries and Zalevskaya needed three. Belgium's Natalia Jonckheere took the bronze at 1.88 (6-2).

Italian Annarita Sidoti's 10-kilometre walk of 43 minutes, 22 seconds was the fastest ever in the games. Teammate Rossella Giordano was second in 43:30 and Russia's Larissa Ramazanova third in 43:56.

Mexico's Daniel Garcia won the men's 20-kilometre race, ahead of two Italians. Garcia finished in 1 hour, 24 minutes, 11 seconds. Giovanni Perricelli in 1:24:19 and Arturo Di Mezza in 1:24:33.

The United States won the 1993 medals race with 75 in all, including 30 gold, followed by Canada with 40 and Japan with 30. China stood second in golds, however, with 17.



Detroit Tigers Milt Cuyler (right) is called out by 2nd base umpire after being tagged by the Toronto Blue Jays Alex Gonzalez

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSH
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BEWARE OF A LITTLE LEARNING

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
AKQ105
Q7
83

WEST
Q32
QAK10643
Q876
84

SOUTH
A473
QJ6
QJ10952
495

The bidding:
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH
20 Dbl Pass Pass 30
Opening lead: King of D

It's time to let another maxim bite the dust—"second hand low, third hand high." As usual, there's more than a grain of truth in this rubric, but individual cases need specific treatment.

Even at this vulnerability, West has a maximum weak two-bid in hearts. East might have raised hearts preemptively over the take-out double (fine tricks are there as the cards lie). When East chose to remain silent, South bought the contract at three diamonds, and it was a question of whether or not the defense could prevail.

West got the defense off to a fine start by cashing the high hearts and then shifting to a spade. Declarer won in hand and led the ten of diamonds.

Let's see what would have happened had West routinely played second hand low. East would win and return a spade, taken in dummy. Another round of diamonds goes to West's king, but there would be no way for East to gain the lead to give partner a spade ruff.

The defenders' communications can be kept open if West plays second hand high on the first trump lead, winning with the king. A second spade is taken on the table, but East wins the next trump with the ace and can give partner a spade ruff.

What if South started with seven diamonds? In that event the contract could not be defeated. All that West's play could cost would be a measly 20 points, not enough to disturb the exchequer.

<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144</p> <p>PHILADELPHIA</p> <p>JIM CARREY & AMY YAZBEK</p> <p>THE MASK</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 699238</p> <p>PLAZA</p> <p>Adel Imam & Yusra</p> <p>Birds of the Darkness</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:45, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420</p> <p>CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1"</p> <p>Adel Imam & Yusra</p> <p>Birds of the Darkness</p> <p>(Arabic)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45</p> <p>CONCORD "2"</p> <p>SPECIALIST</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 8:30</p>	<p>AMMOUN THEATRE TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>MUSA HIJAZIN</p> <p>"Sumaa"</p> <p>IN</p> <p>Hi Citizen</p> <p>daily at 8:30 pm</p> <p>written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh</p> <p>*****</p>	<p>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre TEL: 675571</p> <p>Presents</p> <p>KABARET</p> <p>Abeer Issa</p> <p>Ghassan Mashini</p> <p>with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali</p> <p>The theatre closes on Monday</p> <p>Performances start at 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Tel: 625155</p> <p>AHLAN THEATRE</p> <p>presents</p> <p>(Ahlan Tatbee')</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Normalisation</p> <p>Shows start at 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman</p>
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Truckbomb kills four in Algeria; Italian shot dead

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A truck bomb exploded at dawn Saturday near a police station, killing at least four people and injuring 80, witnesses said, as a wave of bombings shook the country in the midst of a Muslim fundamentalist insurgency.

Meanwhile, security forces reported an Italian textile employee was shot and killed near the western port of Oran. He was the second Italian killed in a month and among at least 85 foreigners slain in the 3½-year-old insurgency.

The blast in Meftah, a poor southeast Algerian suburb near the airport, destroyed about 30 homes and was heard up to 20 kilometres away, witnesses said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on the Armed Islamic Group, an extremist group seeking to topple the military-backed government and establish an Islamic state.

The wave of bombings began after the government in early July said talks collapsed with leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), the party that was banned after the government cancelled January 1992 elections the front was expected to win.

The front has condemned terror attacks but has supported an insurgency that has left more than 30,000 dead in the insurgency.

In Canastel, a town near Oran, gunmen on Saturday morning killed Angelo Gavezzi, a 53-year-old employee of an Algerian sock manufacturer, security forces said in a statement.

As in other slayings, there was no immediate claim of responsibility. The Armed Islamic Group, in seeking to undermine the government, has threatened foreigners working in Algeria.

An Italian embassy spokesman in Algiers told Reuters he was waiting to hear details and confirmation from the

Algerian authorities.

"Usually they inform us through the Foreign Ministry but so far we have not been informed," he said.

On July 17, Dino Fausti, a 48-year-old Italian, was killed in Algiers.

With the deaths of the two Italians, a list compiled by local journalists puts at 85 the number of foreigners killed in the insurgency.

The number could be as high as 105. An official Algerian report to a U.N. commission shortly before the latest deaths put the toll at 103 but did not explain the discrepancy with previous figures.

Informed sources said Meftah blast was aimed at the town's police headquarters. But was not immediately known whether any police were among the victims.

The blast came two days after a suicide attack against the secret service building in Algiers' Bab Al Oued neighbourhood killed nine people including three police and hurt 104.

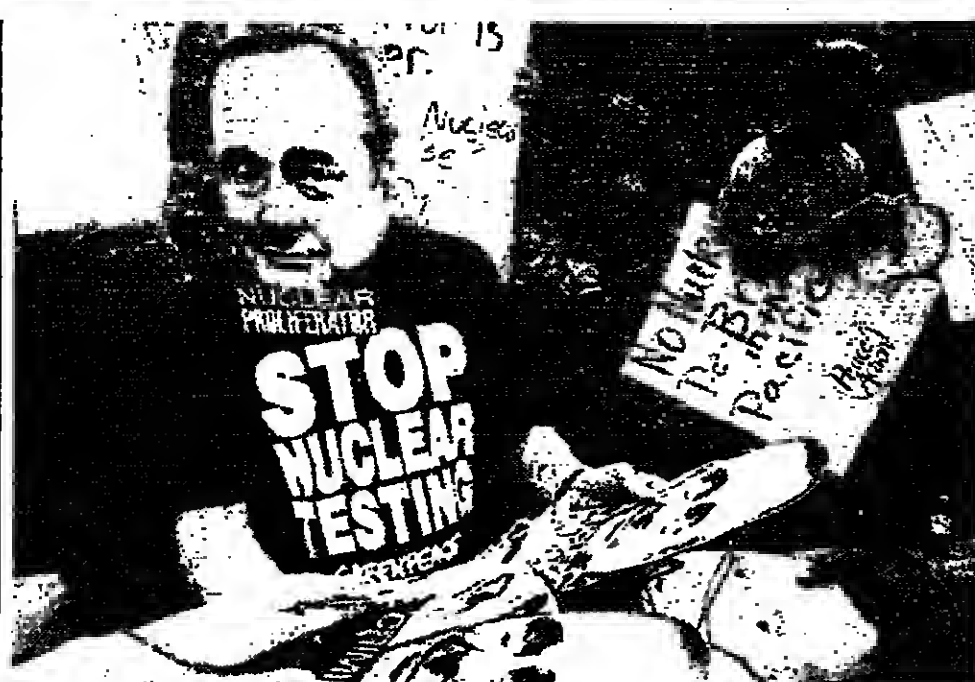
The Algerian navy meanwhile seized an Italian-owned motorboat but a second craft escaped after the navy fired warning shots, the official APS news agency reported on Saturday.

The crew of the first boat threw bundles overboard before jumping onto the second boat as the Algerian craft approached, APS, quoting a defence ministry statement.

The second fled towards the Tunisian coast. Militants fighting the army-backed government have received shipments of weapons from Europe.

The navy spotted the motorboats off the eastern town of Annaba. APS gave no date for the incident, saying it happened recently.

The abandoned boat is the property of an Italian citizen, APS said. No suspicious objects were found on board, it added.



A Greenpeace activist wearing mask of French President Jacques Chirac hands similar masks to others outside the French Embassy in Washington, D. C. Some 50 people gathered to protest the French nuclear testing programme at the Mururoa atoll (AFP photo)

Sudan denies hiding suspects, regrets Ethiopian measures

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan has expressed regret over sanctions imposed by Ethiopia which accuses Sudan of hampering the investigation into the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

A statement issued by Sudan's Foreign Ministry late Friday said Ethiopia's decision to expel Sudanese diplomats and stop air traffic between the two countries would "only harm the interests of the peoples of Sudan and Ethiopia."

Ethiopia on Friday accused Sudan of sheltering three of the would be killers of Egypt's president and all but shut down relations with Khartoum.

A statement by the Ethiopian Foreign Ministry said the attempt on the Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa in July was "planned and coordinated" by two men in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum. The ministry also said one of the nine gunmen who participated in the attack had escaped and was being sheltered in Sudan.

Five of the gunmen were killed and three others were captured. Ethiopia earlier said all those killed or captured were Egyptians.

"Although the government of Sudan does not deny the presence of the three terrorists on its territory, it has not shown any willingness to hand them over to Ethiopia," the statement said.

In retaliation, Ethiopia ordered Sudan to reduce its embassy staff in Addis Ababa from 16 people to four, including its ambassador, and ordered the closure of Sudan's consulate in Gambela in western Ethiopia. Ethiopia will reduce its embassy staff in Khartoum to four.

It also banned all flights into Ethiopia by Sudan Airways and ordered Ethiopian Airlines to halt its flights to Khartoum. In addition, it ordered the closure of all Khartoum-based Islamic relief agencies operating in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia also will require

all Sudanese citizens to obtain a visa to enter the country.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry denied that Sudan was not helping Ethiopia in the case.

The statement said that the Sudanese government formed a high-level committee to investigate and had relayed all its findings to Ethiopia.

It said the committee found that an Egyptian suspect, who apparently held forged Ethiopian and Sudanese passports, had entered Sudan before the assassination attempt but could not be found.

"No evidence was found on entry of the other two into Sudan," it added.

Ethiopia identified the planners of the assassination attempt as Mustafa Hamza and Izzat Yassin. The escaped gunman, earlier identified by Ethiopia as the leader of the assassination team, was said to be Hussein

(Continued on page 3)

French seizure of Greenpeace ships sparks huge outcry

Agence France Presse

ANTI-NUCLEAR campaigners around the world Saturday staged demonstrations, including "die-ins" and burning effigies of French President Jacques Chirac, to protest the seizure of two Greenpeace vessels by French commandos in the South Pacific.

Rainbow Warrior II and an accompanying ship, MV Greenpeace, were boarded by the commandos after one sailed into an exclusion zone around Mururoa atoll where French nuclear tests are to be carried out starting from this month.

Demonstrations were held by European branches of the Greenpeace environmental organisation, which is coordinating the protest action, but the biggest protest by far was in Tokyo where about 10,000 people staged "die-ins" and urged boycotts of French products.

The rally at the Yoyogi Park was timed to coincide with international protests in Tahiti, in which Fiance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and other Japanese politicians are taking part.

At one corner of the park, effigies of President Chirac were set up for protesters to hit with burning gloves.

In the Tahiti capital Papeete, a motorist, furious of having his way blocked by hundreds of anti-nuclear protesters, charged the demonstrators with his car, injuring three of them.

The Swiss branch of Greenpeace urged the Swiss government to secure the release of the MV Greenpeace captain, Peter Schwab, detained when the boat was seized. The organisation said Mr. Schwab was a Swiss citizen and complained that the seizure of the vessel was a "violation of international maritime law."

In Austria, opposition

Green Party leader Madeleine Petrovic and the Greenpeace organisation called on the Vienna government to intervene in bringing about the release of two Austrians detained after the boats were boarded.

Diver Heinz Smial and another Greenpeace member, Wolfgang Sadik, were arrested "while peacefully protesting against French nuclear tests," Greenpeace said in letter to Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky.

"France's disregard for basic democratic rights such as freedom of protest puts it on a par with non-democratic China," Florian Faber, a spokesman for Greenpeace Austria, stated.

According to Ms. Petrovic, two or three Austrians were detained in Paris during a Greenpeace demonstration Friday and she called for their immediate release.

Meanwhile, in Germany a dozen Greenpeace activists kept vigil outside the French embassy in Bonn and said they would remain there until the fate of the boats' crew was known.

About 100 Young Green Party members in Sweden demonstrated peacefully in Stockholm, police said.

The only apparently pro-French sentiment Saturday came from Finland's former ambassador in the United Nations, Max Jacobson, who warned of world instability if France were to row back on carrying out the tests.

Writing in the Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat, Mr. Jacobson — who was U.N. ambassador from 1965-72 — decried the deterrent capability of "democratic nations" nuclear weapons.

"If France stops its nuclear tests, Britain will be the last remaining democratic European country with a nuclear capability," he added.

In Austria, opposition

Packwood rolling the dice with hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Picture this: As television cameras roll, 17 women tell their stories of being sexually manhandled by a U.S. senator. It's a scenario to make any politician cringe. Yet Sen. Bob Packwood of Oregon has chosen public senate ethics committee hearings in a risky strategy to salvage a 27-year Senate career that has seen him fall from a leading Republican champion of women's rights to the butt of jokes on late night television.

"In theory, hearings on sexual material can educate. More often, they titillate," said Robert Licher, director of the Centre for Media and Public Affairs. "We are in for a round of who can posture better for the cameras."

Bill Lucht, an Oregon university political science professor, called it "a damage-control approach for him. It is not something he wanted to do. The public hearings will look bad on television."

The committee has found "substantial credible evidence" to support claims of 17 former Packwood employees and other women who contend that the senator has sexually harassed them over the last two decades. After demanding for months that hearings be held in secret, Mr. Packwood finally succumbed to pressure from women's advocates and agreed last week to open the hearings. The ethics committee is to decide this week whether to hold them.

Queen jumps from 72nd to first on list

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II leaped to first place in Business Age magazine's list of Britain's richest people, published Saturday. It's not that her majesty had a seasonal holiday year. Rather, the magazine changed the way it measured her pile. It calculated that she was worth £2.2 billion (\$3.4 billion), up from £158 million (\$245 million). A spokesman for Buckingham Palace said the claim was "ridiculous," arguing that much of the royal wealth doesn't belong to the individual on the throne. Business Age, however, said it applied a strict legal definition of wealth. "She holds title to Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, Sandringham, Balmoral and a number of other royal residences, although legally she might have problems actually selling Buckingham Palace," the magazine said.

Five Swedes expelled from Indonesia for illegal butterfly catching

JAKARTA (AFP) — Five Swedish nationals detained in Indonesia since July for catching rare species of butterfly have been given five months suspended jail sentence and expelled from the country, a report said Saturday. The five, who were held in the eastern province of Irian Jaya, were also fined 200,000 rupiah (about \$80), the official Antara news agency said. The Swedes were caught with several hundred rare butterflies caught on the slopes of Mount Syklop, according to a local police official, Coloeel Leonard Siagian, quoted by Antara. They were detained at Jayapura, the provincial capital which is near Indonesia's border with Papua New Guinea. The Swedes — identified by Antara as K.K. Anderson, 30, H. Tjerner, 27, H.S. Yanson, 30, C.G. Osborg, 28 and Y. Costed, 32 — were convicted on Friday by a court in Jayapura and their sentences were handed down immediately. Indonesia, which boasts the world's second largest rain forests after the Amazon, is particularly rich in rare fauna and flora that the government is trying to protect.

Woman found dead in trunk with romance novels

GALVESTON, Texas (AFP) — Her mother described her as a loner, and that's how she died: In her own car trunk, where police say Diane James took sleeping pills and read romance novels with a flashlight until she perished. Authorities suspect suicide, but homicide detectives are still investigating since the cause of death has not yet been determined. "She had too much going for her" to commit suicide, said her mother, Vera Knauss. Police.

KDP boosts security in north Iraq

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (Agencies) — Iraqi Kurds from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Saturday increased checkpoints in northern Iraq after 12 Turkish Kurdish militants were killed in a clash, KDP officials and the Anatolian news agency said.

Anatolian said 12 guerrillas from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), fighting for autonomy or independence in southeast Turkey, were killed on Friday evening in a clash near Kani Masi in northern Iraq.

The KDP, which last month reached a tentative ceasefire agreement with a rival Iraqi Kurdish group, boosted checkpoints along the Zakho-Batufa road running parallel with the Turkish border, KDP officials said.

Last week the PKK emerged from mountain hideouts in northern Iraq to attack targets in KDP-held territory.

Fighting over the past year between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has split northern Iraq into a patchwork of rival territories and sources say the PKK wants to establish itself as a third force in the region.

U.S.-sponsored talks between the KDP and PUK in mid-August raised hopes that fighting between the Iraqi Kurdish groups would end in northern Iraq.

Although the region is under Iraqi Kurdish rebel control, an allied "no-fly zone" was set up after the 1991 Gulf war to protect Kurds from attack by Iraq's army following a large-scale assault in 1991.

Three teenaged Kurdish girls were wounded on Saturday when unknown gunmen raked their village in southeast Turkey before fleeing, the girls said.

The sisters, interviewed by the Batman state hospital, said they were sleeping on the roof of their house when gunmen opened fire on Karisyaka village near Batman a few hours after midnight. The PKK often attacks villages that have state-paid Kurdish militia, but Karisyaka has no village guards. Both sides have been accused of human rights abuses during the 11-year war in which more than 17,500 people have died.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kampala wants Idi Amin

KAMPALA (AFP) — The Ugandan government is in contact with the former dictator Idi Amin to try to convince him to return peacefully to Uganda, the official New Vision newspaper reported Saturday. The move comes as rebels loyal to Mr. Amin's former Foreign Minister Juma Oris are reported to have crossed into northwest Uganda recently from Sudan and mounted roadblocks in the region, where they have been intensifying operations aimed at returning Mr. Amin to power. The paper said Defence Minister Amama Mubazi told a rally in the northwest district of Arua near the border with Sudan on Friday that the government was trying to convince Mr. Amin through his wife Madina, who now resides in Egypt, to end his 16-year exile and return home. Mr. Mubazi said he had told Madina Amin that he wanted to meet Idi Amin personally and persuade him to return home. But the former dictator "preferred to talk to me on the telephone, during which I told him I wanted to meet him face to face," Mr. Mubazi said. The defence minister warned, however, that if Mr. Amin returned to Uganda, he could not be guaranteed immunity from prosecution for crimes committed by his security agents during his bloody nine-year rule that claimed an estimated half a million lives.

Ramses colossus to move to Cairo outskirts

CAIRO (R) — The Egyptian government is planning to move one of Cairo's most prominent pharaonic landmarks — a colossal statue of the Pharaoh Ramses II that stood outside the main railway station since 1955. The statue, 9.7 metres tall and made from a single block of rose granite, will go to another square on the west bank of Nile, not far from the pyramids of Giza. A network of flyovers has dwarfed the statue and the present site is one of the most polluted and noisy in the city. "The statue's almost invisible now so it has to go somewhere better... I expect it will cost about a million pounds (\$300,000) to move," Abdul Halim Noureddin, chairman of the Supreme Antiquities Council, told Reuters on Saturday. The statue originally came from the ancient city of Memphis, the capital of Egypt for most of the pharaonic period.

S. Korean energy minister on Gulf tour

JEDDAH (AFP) — South Korean Energy, Trade and Industry Minister Park Jae-Yoon arrived here Saturday for talks with Saudi leaders on the first leg of a tour of three Gulf oil states. He met King Fahd and handed over a message from President Kim Young-Sam on cooperation between the two countries, the official agency SPA said. Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, is the first stop on his tour which will also take him to Oman and Qatar. In Qatar on Monday the minister will sign a deal for an annual supply of 2.4 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Seoul from 1999.

Arabsat considers satellite bids

DUBAI (R) — The Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (Arabsat) is considering offers from three international companies competing to launch one of two new second generation satellites, officials said on Saturday. They said France's ArianeSpace, Lockheed International of Lockheed Martin of the United States, and China's Great Wall Industry Corp were competing for the contract, but did not say how much it was worth. They said an Arabsat board of directors meeting due to start in Amman on Sept. 9 will most likely decide who wins the contract. The pan-Arab operator, an offshoot of the Arab League, currently has two satellites in orbit and has ordered the two new second generation satellites from France's ArianeSpace at a cost of \$258 million. The officials said the first one would be launched by ArianeSpace in June or July of 1996, but that no date has been set for the launch of the second one, for which the international companies are competing. Arabsat, which operates satellite communications for Arab countries, including television, telephone and data transmission, is jointly owned by 21 Arab countries.

German tour group goes bust in Greece

MUNICH (R) — About 1,000 tourists stranded in Greece after their German travel operator went bust on Friday will be flown back to Germany next week, the German DRS travel insurance association said on Saturday. The tourists were on holidays purchased through Gamma Tours of Cologne, which filed for bankruptcy protection in a local court, according to published reports. The DRS said it would pay for the return of the tourists, which will cost about 500,000 marks (\$340,000), said DRS spokeswoman Petra Reim on Saturday. They will be flown back to Germany on Tuesday as planned on Nordic East Airways, which is owed about 1.54 million marks (\$1 million) from the travel operator. It was not immediately clear what will happen to about 600 people who have booked future holidays with Gamma, but trip cancellation insurance is often mandatory from tour operators in Germany. Ms. Reim said.

Cyprus night club bombed; owner injured

NICOSIA (R) — A bomb damaged a night club in Cyprus and injured its owner on Saturday in what police suspected was an underworld vendetta. A police spokesman told Reuters a bomb believed to contain several sticks of dynamite was thrown at the entrance of the Le Panache cabaret in the southern port of Limassol from a passing car in the early hours of the morning. "The owner of the cabaret had just parked his car and was approaching the entrance when the bomb was thrown from a car passing by, which is still of unknown particulars," police spokesman Savvas Antoniadis told Reuters. The nightclub owner, Menelaos Athinisi, 46, suffered slight facial injuries. Extensive damage was reported to the entrance of the nightclub and cars parked in the area. Mr. Athinisi is the latest victim in a series of attacks in Limassol which police suspect are rooted in differences between two gangs vying to control networks of foreign cabaret dancers on the island.

Belgian frigate leaves for Gulf

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The Belgian frigate F-910 Wielingen will leave Belgium on Tuesday for the Gulf to help enforce a UN embargo against Iraq, the Belgian defence ministry said Friday. Belgium is sending the ship, with a crew of 160, in response to a request from the United States. Its mission will last from Oct. 1 until Dec. 29, the ministry added. The head of the U.N. Special Commission on Disarming Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, last week said Baghdad's revelations about its secret weapons were a clear step forward toward the lifting of U.N. sanctions, which were imposed following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Britain's Rifkind to visit Turkey next week

ANKARA (R) — British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind is to pay a one-day visit to Turkey on Sept. 6, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday. Mr. Rifkind and Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu would discuss relations between Turkey and the European Union as well as regional and international issues, a ministry statement said. The British foreign secretary will also meet Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and President Suleyman Demirel, it said.

Policeman dies in Dubai accidental shooting

DUBAI (AP) — An Omani employed by security authorities in the United Arab Emirates as a plainclothes policeman was accidentally shot dead by a colleague, an English-language newspaper reported on Tuesday. Gulf News said an officer, also from Oman, was cleaning his gun on the back seat of a car when his gun went off, killing his colleague: who was in the driver's seat. It did not say whether the men on duty when the Monday accident took place.